

the priority given to the construction of a Crude Oil Grid, the construction of a gas grid in Gujarat will be further delayed ;

(b) the schedule for the construction of the crude oil grid and the investment required ; and

(c) whether it is possible to undertake both the works simultaneously ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) ONGC has at present no formal plan for having a gas grid.

(b) The construction of a crude oil pipeline connecting the Kalol and 'Nawagam oil fields to Koyali refinery has been started. The Nawagam-Koyali section of the pipeline is expected to be completed by about November, 1969 and Kalol-Nawagam section is expected to be completed by February, 1970. The total investment on this pipeline is expected to be Rs. 435.47 lakhs.

(c) The two grids are quite independent of each other. If it is found necessary to extend the existing gas lines so as to form a grid, this will be done.

#### Survey of Smuggling on the Indo-Nepal Border

9358. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently conducted a survey of the *modus operandi* of the smuggling that is being carried out in the Indo-Nepal border ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the annual loss according to the survey that the country is suffering as a result of the smuggling of goods ; and

(d) whether Government have in the light of the findings of the enquiry introduced special measures to combat the situation ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) Though trends of smuggling across Indo-Nepal border and the *modus operandi* are kept under constant review, there has been no official survey, thereof.

(b) to (d). As there has been no survey, furnishing details thereof and taking action

thereon does not arise. However, to put down smuggling across the Indo-Nepal border, several measures have been taken including employment of additional staff, better coordination of the activities of the different organisations functioning on the border and enforcement of the provisions of the Customs (Amendment) Act, 1969.

#### Shares of Indian Iron and Steel Company

9359. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that, instead of disposing of the Indian Iron and Steel Company shares cornered by them recently, the Goenkas have actually been acquiring more shares, contrary to the assurance given by him in Parliament ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that about Rs. 10 crores worth Indian Iron and Steel Company shares have been cornered up-to-date ;

(c) whether Government have any information as to how these operations are being financed on such a large scale, and the role therein of the Punjab National and other banks ; and

(d) the action which the Company Law Board propose to take in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). Shri Ram Nath Goenka and his associates were earlier reported to have acquired seventy to eighty lakhs equity shares out of 248.82 lakhs equity shares in the Indian Iron and Steel Co. Ltd. Precise information as to the up-to-date holdings of the Goenka group in the Company is not, however, available. Certain enquiries were made by the Reserve Bank of India on the reports of alleged acquisition of more Indian Iron shares by the Goenka group ; but no firm conclusion could be drawn from the available records.

(c) While Government has no precise information, the Goenka group was understood to have utilised bank finances as also funds of certain companies for acquisition of the Indian Iron shares. He was also reported to have arrangements with some brokers to hold shares on his behalf. The total advances made by the Punjab National Bank