

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

against Indian Iron shares to the Goenka group amounted to about Rs. 57 lakhs. In addition, another Rs. 50 lakhs were given by the said bank in August, 1958, with the approval of the Reserve Bank to two parties to enable them to purchase part of the share-holdings of the Goenka group. The total amount of advances by the said bank against Indian Iron shares thus aggregated to Rs. 107 lakhs. Out of this, the present outstanding is reported to be Rs. 47 lakhs, excluding interest. Up-to-date information about such advances made by other banks is not readily available. However, all these banks were advised by the Reserve Bank in 1967 to fix a repayment programme for advances exceeding Rs. 5 lakhs against Indian Iron shares and the banks have complied with the said instruction. Reserve Bank's enquiries do not indicate the existence of any bank support to Shri Goenka's alleged further purchases.

(d) In the absence of full particulars about the shares acquire by the Goenka group, the company Law Board finds it difficult to take any action under Section 250 of the Companies Act. However, the Board has decided to have a thorough inspection of books of accounts of a company under the control of Shri Ram Nath Goenka.

Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees

9360. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government

have decided not to increase the dearness allowance of the Central Government employees in future ;

(b) whether it is a fact that with this end in view, Government have excluded milk and ghee from the list of essential commodities which were taken into account for the purposes of calculating price index on the basis of which Dearness Allowance of the Central Government employees was increased ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for excluding these commodities from the list of essential commodities ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Release of Foreign Exchange

9361. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of foreign exchange that was released to Mintsters, students, officials, businessmen, to persons going abroad for medical treatment, to persons going abroad for pleasure sake and to film people during the years 1966, 1967 and 1968 separately ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : A statement giving the information in respect of foreign exchange released for studies, business travel, medical treatment, pleasure trips and to film people is

STATEMENT

(Figures in Lakhs of Rupees)

S. No.	Particulars	1966	1967	1968
1.	Students	542	592	540
2.	Business travel	223	362	434
3.	Medical treatment (inclusive of exchange released to attendants)	43	54	46
4.	Pleasure trips abroad	Nil	Nil	Nil
5.	Film people (for export promotion, participation in film festivals, location shooting of films etc.)	1.78	3.81	3.39

Information in respect of Ministers and officials is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.