

Governments of Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal are awaited.

Oil Drilling Project in Tripura

2032. DR. RANEN SEN ;
SHRI K. HALDER ;
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ;
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA ;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an oil-drilling project has been undertaken by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Tripura ;

(b) if so, whether proved deposits of oil have been located in the area concerned, or drilling is to be purely exploratory in nature ;

(c) whether Government have generally decided that, in the interest of economy, drilling operations should be confined to areas of proved deposits only ; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons for giving up the Board project in West Bengal and taking up the Tripura project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) :
(a) Not yet.

(b) and (c). The Tripura deposits are not yet proved and the drilling will be of exploratory nature. The intention is to concentrate the present efforts within the available limited resources in promising areas, where it is possible to produce more crude in a short span of time. In Tripura region, there are a number of favourable structures and the rock formations expected to occur at depth therein are known to contain deposits of hydrocarbons in the adjacent areas.

(d) Further drilling in the Bodra project was stopped, because the results of

the well drilled on that structure were not favourable. Drilling has been discontinued until other worthwhile structures are located after further seismic surveys. In the Tripura region where there are a number of structures that appear favourable, exploration work is likely to be taken up. The rock formation expected to occur at depth in this region are prognosticated as containing gas/oil deposits, and it is proposed to take up exploratory drilling in Tripura.

Demands of Class IV staff of Geological Survey of India

2033. SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE ;
SHRI K. HALDER ;
DR. RANEN SEN ;
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ;

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a one-day token mass hunger-strike was resorted to on the 15th October, 1969 by Class IV staff of the Geological Survey of India before the Director General's office in Calcutta ; and

(b) if so, the action taken to redress the said grievances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The demands of Class IV staff of the Geological Survey of India are receiving attention of the Government. As regards other grievances, these will be considered sympathetically by Director General, Geological Survey of India if they are found to be legitimate.

Manufacture of Antibiotics and Drugs

2034. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress in the manufacture of

various antibiotics and other drugs in the public and private sectors ;

(b) whether penicilline is manufactured in public and private sectors ; and

(c) the manufacturing cost of penicilline per phial and the cost charged from the consumers per phial ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) A statement showing the capacity approved/licensed for the manufacture of essential drugs both in the private and public sectors and the actual production during 1968 and in January to September, 1969 is laid on the Table of the House. [*Place in Library. See LT-2161/69*]. The statement indicates the extent of progress made in the manufacture of various antibiotics and other drugs in the two sectors.

(b) Yes.

(c) The manufacturing cost of penicilline is not available but the retail prices of certain penicillin preparations of a few firms are indicated in the statement laid on Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-2161/69*].

Gandak Projects Scheme, Bihar

2035. SHRI B. P. MANDAL :
SHRI PREM CHAND
VERMA :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of the Gandak Project Scheme in Bihar up-to-date ;

(b) the proportion of contribution in the Gandak Project Scheme by the Central Government and the Bihar Government respectively ; and

(c) whether for want of fund all works of the Gandak Scheme are at stand still at present ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Construction of the Gandak barrage is almost complete. In the Tirhut

canal, work has been completed up to R. D. 553. Work on the Don branch canal and main Western canal and Nepal Eastern canal is in an advanced stage. Some work is also in progress on the Saran and Ghorasahan branch canals. Foundation excavation of the Power House has been completed and sheet piling and concreting work are in progress.

(b) Irrigation projects form part of State Plans. In the Annual Plan of the Bihar State for 1969-70, an outlay of Rs. 9.5 crores has been earmarked for the Gandak Project by the Planning Commission. The proposals to increase this outlay partly from State resources and partly by accelerated Central assistance are under consideration.

(c) No, Sir. Owing to non-availability of resources on the scale required, work has, however, been slowed down since 1967 on the Saran canal and Ghorasahan branch canal, in order to concentrate available resources on the other components where work is in full swing.

Operations by Geological Survey of India

2036. SHRI B. P. MANDAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey Teams are operating at present in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of such teams and the names of the States where they are operating ; and

(c) whether it is not a fact that there is ample scope of geological operations, specially in the Himalayas, if so, whether Government contemplate to undertake such operations at gigantic scale ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 570 investigations included in the field programme of the Geological Survey of India for the current year 1969-70 are proposed to be taken up by the survey