

(a) the total number of foreign experts/engineers and names of foreign countries they come from, at present engaged by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in its exploratory works;

(b) whether the foreign experts are proving very expensive; and

(c) whether any plan has been worked out to replace the foreign experts by Indian engineers gradually and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN) : (a) At present, 32 foreign experts—31 from USSR and one from Czechoslovakia are working with the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. Indian understudies are attached invariably with the foreign experts so as to ensure their replacement gradually. The number of foreign experts with the Commission has come down from 325 in 1964-65 to 32 as at present.

Expenditure by Oil and Natural Gas Commission on its Inaugural functions

4508. SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has incurred huge expenditure on its inaugural functions during the recent past ;

(b) whether Government have made any enquiries into such reports and if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has been given any directions to avoid such waste of expenditure in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D.R. CHAVAN) : (a) Government have noted the expenditure incurred by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission on its inaugural functions since 1968-69;

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Oil and Natural Gas Commission into Integrated Oil Company

4509. SHRI N. SHIVAPIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of Oil and Natural Gas Commission have submitted a memorandum to Government regarding the conversion of Oil and Natural Gas Commission into an integrated Oil Company with refining and oil marketing functions; and

(b) if so, the reactions of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) The President of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Employees Mazdoor Sabha, Baroda had written a letter on 10.11.70 to the Prime Minister, raising certain demands of the workers, including the conversion of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission into an "integrated" Oil Company with refining and marketing functions also.

(b) The policy of the Government has been for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to continue as an independent organisation for the exploration and exploration of petroleum resources of the country, unfettered with activities of a purely commercial nature relating to the refining and sale of petroleum products. No change is contemplated in this policy.