

SCCL, with an investment of Rs. 1,535 crores of the capacity of 17.50 million tonnes. We have another 12 projects on hand which are under the active consideration of the Government. This is as far as the expansion programme is concerned. As far as the second part of the question is concerned, we do have a lot of law and order problems and some time back the Board of Directors decided to induct the CISF in that area and two companies of CISF consisting of 260 men have already gone to that area. We expect that within a few days' time another 1,187 CISF men would reach there. All the arrangements for accommodation have been completed and they are about to move to that area.

SHRI SOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, it is really very sad to know that even the coal that had been produced in the coal mine could not be transported to the thermal power stations because of shortage of railway wagons for some time. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry will take suitable steps in coordination with the Railways, so that this type of shortage of wagons do not take place in future and hamper the power production in the Vijayawada Thermal Power Station which has attained very good standard. In the first question, the Minister has not clarified about the Manuguru aspect. I would like him to clarify that also.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Sir, we are trying our best to improve the movement of coal and we are constantly in touch with the Railway Ministry. I have been talking to the Railway Minister and he has been very cooperative. I am lucky to have a Railway Minister who was the Coal Minister earlier. Regarding the Manuguru aspect, I do not have the details now; I will give it to him later.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is aware that in addition to Singareni being unable to fulfil its obligations towards Andhra Pradesh Thermal Power Stations, it is also failing to fulfil its obligations with regard to Tamil Nadu Thermal Power Stations.

If so, whether his Ministry would give permission to Tamil Nadu to import coal from Australia.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Actually, the question relates to Andhra. But I am very much aware of the problem being faced by the Tamil Nadu Government also. About the question of importing coal from Australia, as of now, the policy is not to allow any import.

SHRI VENKATESWARLU UNNA-REDDY : In Singareni collieries, coal problem is a very complex problem. There are trade unions at loggerheads and there is a lot of labour problem. Even law and order problem is very severe. As a result of these problems, the supply of coal is very much crippled.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what exactly is the proportion of coal that has been earmarked for National Thermal plants which are functioning in Andhra Pradesh and how much is being sent to National Thermal plants functioning in the other neighbouring States.

(b) Though Muddanur thermal plant has been sanctioned long back, it has not come up to the level of functioning for want of coal linkage. What exactly is the position? Andhra Pradesh is a deficit State as far as power is concerned. Muddanur plant is not coming up only for want of coal linkage. When is the Muddanur plant going to be commissioned?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Our target was 22.50 million tonnes. The actual production in that area has been only 17.71 million tonnes. The demand in the entire area which is dependent on the Singareni Colliery is about 30 million tonnes.

OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION IN RAJASTHAN

[Translation]

*210. **SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA** : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the outcome of the oil and gas exploration conducted by the Oil and Natu-

ral Gas Commission and the Oil India Limited in Western Rajasthan; and

(b) the schemes formulated by the Government to utilise gas explored in Jaisalmer and Barmer area ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) : (a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has discovered gas at Bhakri Tibba, Menhera Tibba, Ghotaru, Khartar and Bankia Structures. Oil India Limited has discovered gas at Tanot, East Tanot and Dandewala structures

(b) Gas has been committed for a 3 MW Power Plant at Ramgarh.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the potential quantity of oil and gas which has been discovered at these places.

(b) Is it a fact that the earlier technicians who were there were from the American company and they deliberately after a good deal of expenditure, abandoned the exploration in order not to allow India to become self-reliant ?

(c) By what time, for the Ramgarh power scheme, they would be able to supply the gas ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : So far 40 wells have been drilled in the State of Rajasthan and no oil well which is commercially exploitable has been found. However, from the 14 wells which have been drilled, there is hope of commercial exploitation of gas, as far as the State of Rajasthan is concerned.

The estimated gas reserve so far discovered by Oil India Ltd., in Rajasthan is of the order of 6.57 million standard cubic metres and it is estimated that production of about half a million cubic metres per day of gas can be made avail-

able for about 15 years. The indication of oil is only in Bikaner-Nagpur basin where oil wells were drilled by OIL.

It is doubtful whether the present basin of heavy oil is commercially exploitable.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : I want to have a reply from the hon. Minister to the question which I have put whether the American technicians had deliberately abandoned the drilling operation in order to prevent India from self-reliance. This question has not been answered. This is my first question.

I would like to know the expenditure which has been incurred by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Ltd. in Western Rajasthan so far. This is my second question.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The oil drilling and gas exploration operations in all the States are under the direct supervision of the ONGC and OIL which are public sector companies and no foreign technicians may be involved. But they are not in a position to influence the decision or exploration one way or the other.

I will not be able to tell you exactly the amount of money that has been spent so far but I can inform the hon. Member later.

[Translation]

SHRI AYUB KHAN : Sir, Rajasthan is a land of sacrifices. It has abundant deposits of natural gas and oil. The department has not been able to survey these resources till now. Will the district of Jhunjhunu be also included in the area marked for survey and exploration by the ONGC ?

MR. SPEAKER : Just restrict your answer to whether Jhunjhunu can be included for survey and exploration.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan. (Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not going on record.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : We have statistics of sedimentary basins for oil and gas which are virtually spread over the entire country and the ONGC as well as OIL which are the gas and oil exploratory agencies have a plan of action for drilling. I will not be able to say off hand whether Jhunjhuna is in this perspective plan but I can inform the Hon. Member that we have in 1990-91 dug four wells in Rajasthan and the Hon. Member from Rajasthan would be happy to note that gas was found in all the four wells which were dug during the last financial year.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Hon. Minister said that there is scope for commercial exploitation of the gas so far found.

The 3MW Power Plant at Ramgarh has been pending for so long. Why are you not exploiting that scope ?

It means that there is scope for exploitation but you will wait and do it later. When are you going to do that exploitation ? Why have you not done it so far ? The 3 MW Ramgarh Plant has been waiting completion. Why have you not even started doing it ?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : The Hon. Member will be happy to know that the ONGC has already committed to the Government of Rajasthan, gas of the setting up of the 3 MW power Plant at Ramgarh and it was done as far back as 1985 and we had also given a concessional price for this gas. The Rajasthan State Electricity Board has not signed the gas supply contract with ONGC. They have recently shown further interest in the utilisation of this gas. We shall be happy to make this gas available because we had already promised the State of Rajasthan that this will be available for the Ramgarh Power Plant.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Sir it has been established for a fact that there

are oil deposits in Gokharu village in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, but further exploration work has been stopped. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to why the exploration work has been stopped and whether it be restarted ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Sir, I can understand the concern of the Hon. Member for his area. I can only say to this House that this is a suggestion for action of the Government. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : He has said that it is a suggestion for action.

[English]

SHRI D. K. NAIKAR : Sir, the ONGC has set up some gas facilities at Bombay. As the Hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand is also coming from Karnataka, may I know from him in view of the scarcity of power in Karnataka, is he going to have any gas-line for the thermal plants at Belgaum, Hubli-Darwar ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question is disallowed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

SUPPLY OF NATURAL GAS THROUGH PIPELINES IN AHMEDABAD

*205. **SHRI HARIN PATHAK :**
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted the feasibility project report on supply of natural gas to Ahmedabad, Surat and Valia Cities through pipelines; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by the Union Government so far ?