

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Jhunjhunu is not in our area of operation.

Supply of Gas To Sugar Units In North Maharashtra

*411. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Bombay High natural gas through pipelines to the sugar units in North Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total gas production of the Bombay High is to the tune of fifty million cubic metres and out of that about 14 million cubic metres is flared up daily. It leads to a loss of Rs. 400 crores per year. I would like to know from the Minister, what are the plans to prevent this national wastage. And I would like to know whether this Gas Flaring Reduction Scheme, which is being implemented, is going to be completed very soon.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : It is true that considerable amount of gas is being flared up every day. For that purpose, we have a Gas Flaring Reduction Scheme which has been sanctioned.

We hope to implement the scheme within a period of three to four years and will see that the gas is completely used.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : There is a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for erection of a second terminal at Uran. In this era of privatisation, the private companies like Mafatlal and others,

as well as Nasik Industrial Estate have offer to take up this project of utilising the gas which is being wasted through the pipelines passing through Northern Maharashtra for the use of the Sugar units, industries as well as for domestic purpose. I would like to ask the Minister whether he is going to give the permission for the same or not?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : At the moment, there has been a commitment to the entire gas that is being produced today in this country. The potential consumers have been committed the gas that will be produced. The question which the hon. Member has put, regarding the gas to be utilised by the sugarcane units and another terminal on the Western Off-shore, there is a Special group to deal with that question.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : While preparing the distribution plan, about the Bombay High Gas, the State of Maharashtra has been completely left out. I would like to ask the Minister, whether there is any proposal of reallocating some gas from Bombay High to Maharashtra in some areas at least, if not in Northern Maharashtra.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Like the hon. Member, I myself was a little doubtful about the entire gas supply scheme in the country, when a large quantity of gas in HBJ line was taken from Bombay High to the Northern States. I myself made enquiries, like the hon. Member is making enquiry here from me, whether there was any deliberate plan to block out other States with regard to supply of Gas and now I am convinced that there is not such a bias against any particular State and no State is deliberately left out for supplying the natural gas. I do appreciate the hon. Members concern for Maharashtra which is a very progressive State. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KAPSE : Are you going to review the whole distribution system? When we are producing so much of gas and new areas are found out, will you do some review or reconsider it? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NASIK : He has not replied the specific question. He must reply the question.

SHRI RAM KAPSE : It was a specific scheme. Are you going to reconsider it or not?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : May I inform the hon. Members that at present, Maharashtra is getting a large quantity of gas. It is not that it is not getting. I am told that about 11 to 12 million cm per day of gas is being supplied to Maharashtra from the Western Off-shore and it has been brought from Western Off-shore to Uran. This is likely to pick up.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : There was a proposal with the government of India to set up a gas pipeline from Bombay High which was to pass through a major part of Maharashtra, Marathwada, Konkan, Jalgaon and Vidharbha, Madhya Pradesh and to reach Jagdishpur. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the fate of the proposed pipeline which has not been taken up till now I would like to know, whether the Government will reconsider setting up of this pipeline which will benefit in setting up several industrial projects from wherever this line passes?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to this question.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : There has been a demand from the people that natural gas should be supplied to the southern States on the same lines, as has been done in the case of HBJ line to northern States.

A committee set up by the Ministry is going into this question and the report is yet to be received and considered by the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir I repeat my question that whether the Gov-

ernment is ready to reconsider earlier proposal of the drastic cut in the allocation for Maharashtra? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question has already been asked by Prof. Ram Kapse.

SUNI ANNA JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir the hon. Minister has not given any reply. Therefore, I want to ask a specific question.

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The question of review or reconsideration does not arise in this case because the supply of all the gas that is produced is committed.

Studies are going on to see the possibility of the utilisation of whatever gas that will be brought on-shore through a gas-grid in the South.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : For the last fourteen years the Government of India is giving assurances in this House that enough measures are being taken to stop the flaring up of gas in the Bombay High. Today more than 14 million cubic metres of gas is being flared up at Bombay High. On one side there is flaring up of gas in Bombay High and on the other side the Maharashtra State Electricity Board, Tata Power Corporation and other Chemical Industries which are ready to lay their own pipelines are not given the allocation of gas. I don't understand why the Government is delaying the allocation of the gas. When they don't have enough projects at Uran to utilise the gas why don't they allow private as well as State Electricity Board to use the gas?

Secondly, there is a scheme pending before the Gas Authority of India for the last eight years to supply the domestic fuel gas to the Bombay city. I would request the hon. Minister to let the House know what is the latest position on this scheme.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : As a Bombay hite the hon. Member is naturally concerned about not only the flaring up of

gas but also about the domestic supply of natural gas. It is a fact that there has been a demand regarding the supply of natural gas for domestic purposes in Bombay. There is a case for this. I can only say that this case is being considered by the Government and whatever is possible could be done. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURLI DEORA : On the one hand you don't allow Maharashtra State Electricity Board or the Tata Power Corporation or other chemical industries to lay their pipes and on the other hand you are flaring up the gas. What is your reply?

SHRI SHANKARJI VAGHELA : I have been getting the same reply from you for the last eight years.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I can very well appreciate the concern of the hon. Members because a very large amount of gas is flared up.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: And nothing has been done for so many years.

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Mr. Speaker... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so. If you will go on Speaking like this no one will get reply. You please let him give his reply to your questions. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot do like this. This is Question Hour.

Not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: May I request the hon. Members to listen to me? If they are not interested to listen to me, I have nothing to say. Mere shouting will not solve the problem of supply of gas. Let the hon. Members listen to what I say. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When the Minister is replying, you have to take your seats.

[*Translation*]

Pl. take your seats. Please hear to the hon. Minister. If you will not hear him and go on interrupting like this then who will hear you.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

AN HON. MEMBER: Let there be a half-an-hour discussion on this. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: You can have a full, whole day discussion, I do not mind. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice. I will consider.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, may I impress on the Members that shouting is no solution to the problem? (*Interruptions*) Sir, a project has been formulated to meet the problem of flaring of gas in the Western Off-shore where currently 8.33 million cubic meters of gas per day is being flared. The gas being flared in 1991 was 12.7 million cubic meters per day and this has been brought down by the commissioning of the HUT Pipeline and the ICG gas compressor platform and because of reduced oil production and increased internal utilisation. The project envisages setting up of additional compressors and pipelines and is expected to cost about Rs. 7,500 crores of which over Rs. 5,000 crores would be in foreign exchange. The project has been posed to the World Bank who have sanctioned a loan of US \$ 450 million and the ADB who are likely to sanction a loan of US \$ 300 million for the project. The balance of foreign exchange would come from the Exim Bank of Japan and suppliers credits.

There are many actions taken in this

regard. So, let the flaring be brought to zero and the gas be utilised for the benefit of the consumers. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is an admitted fact that the gas is being burnt on a very massive scale and it is a national loss. My specific question is this: since the Government is not able to restrict that and utilise that for any productive purpose so far, I want to know if any Indian private enterprise comes forward to use that – in view of the Government's general policy of privatisation – whether the Government will consider such proposals of giving that gas for the use by the private parties. This is my specific question and he did not reply to that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I have just now given the scheme which is undertaken by the Government. In the event of failure of this scheme, perhaps, the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be considered.

EMU Services in Calcutta

*417. **SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that EMU services of the Calcutta suburban sections have become irregular and daily passengers have to face difficulties as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to run the local trains regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). With the exception of Howrah-Kharagpur section, punctuality of suburban trains in Calcutta area has been averaging about 95%.

(c) Running of these trains is being monitored intensively.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: Sir, I totally disagree with the answer given by the hon. Minister that there is 95 per cent punctuality of suburban trains in Calcutta. I myself am a daily passenger of those trains in that area and I do not know from where he has collected this information or data. However in his reply, he has admitted that in Howrah-Kharagpur section there is some irregularity in running the trains.

May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the percentage of punctuality in the Howrah-Kharagpur section?

What are the reasons for late running of trains in that section?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, in the South-Eastern Railway, that is, the Howrah-Kharagpur Section, the punctuality of trains used to be around 94 per cent in 1988-89. Currently, it is in the range of 90 per cent. It was affected by factors like frequent power-cuts trippings on account of irregular supply from West Bengal State Electricity Board.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: The Hon. Minister is misleading the House because that is not a fact. In this area, Kolaghat Thermal Power Project is there. They are supplying electricity regularly to the South-Eastern Railways.

Now he is passing on all the responsibility to the State Government. The actual fact is that there is more than 100 per cent congestion in the Howrah-Kharagpur section in the trains. Can the Minister deny it? Sir, what is the remedy?

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask a specific question.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA: There is a necessity for construction of fourth railway line from Santragachi to Panskura and third railway line from Panskura to Kharagpur to avoid the congestion. Otherwise the problem of congestion cannot be overcome. May