

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]**Oil drilling in Jwalamukhi, Himachal Pradesh**

*4. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in respect of drilling for oil in Jwalamukhi in Himachal Pradesh and whether any gas has struck there;

(b) if so, the quantity of gas likely to be found there; and

(c) whether Government propose to expedite the on-going drilling work there?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) In Jwalamukhi area of Himachal Pradesh, five deep wells and five structural wells have been drilled so far without any commercial gas strike

(b) Does not arise

(c) At present no drilling is going on in Jwalamukhi area. However, location Chantalai-I in Himachal Pradesh is slated for drilling in the near future.

[*English*]**Incentive to Entrepreneurs**

*5. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of leading trade and industrial houses have recently sought further relaxation of policies specially those relating to MRTP and FERA rules;

(b) whether they have also requested for encouragement to indigenous entrepreneurs by giving them incentives at par with those for foreign investors;

(c) if so, the details of the relaxations and incentives asked for; and

(d) the reaction of Government to the demand of the trade and industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have, *inter-alia*, made the following suggestions for changes in the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 and F.E.R.A., 1973:—

REGARDING CHANGES IN M.R.T.P. ACT, 1969

- (i) Section 21 and 22 of the M.R.T.P. Act, 1969 relating to substantial expansion and establishment of new undertakings are totally out of place and should be deleted.
- (ii) Rationalisation and simplification of the definitions of 'value of assets', 'interconnected undertakings', 'group', 'associated persons' and 'relative' under Section 2 of the Act.
- (iii) The procedure for de-registration of the M.R.T.P. companies and the prescription of time limit of 60 days for grant of deregistration certificate should be simplified.
- (iv) Multiplicity of approvals under various Sections of the M.R.T.P. Act should be avoided and a suitable form devised to cover all aspects.