

unionised category of employees of IAAI are not entitled for the relief. The Management of IAAI have, however, recently reached an understanding with the recognised Union to make payment of advance to the employees which will be absorbed in the next wage revision due from 1.9.89.

Substitute for Hard Coke

8789. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Dhanbad received any proposal in June, 1989 relating to production of end material as substitute for hard coke for industrial/metallurgical fuel purposes;

(b) whether Government have also received a representation in February, 1990 in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any decision has been taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). It has been ascertained from the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi that a research project aimed at finding a substitute for industrial/metallurgical coke by re-constituting Jhama coal had been received

by them from Dr. D. Prasad of Dhanbad in April, 89. He had repeated the proposal in June, 89. CMPDI has intimated that they had sent a communication to Dr. Prasad on 2/3rd May, 1989 conveying that as a project similar to that proposed by him had already been undertaken by Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, they were unable to support it.

2. Dr. Prasad has submitted a representation on the subject to the Government in February, 90. This is under examination in consultation with the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad.

Self-Sufficiency in Crude Oil

8790. SHRI K. MURLEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the oil exploration in the country; and

(b) whether there is any chance to achieve self-sufficiency in respect of crude oil in near future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Exploration for hydrocarbons through geo-scientific surveys and exploratory drilling has been going on in the various sedimentary basins falling within the States of :

Nagaland

Punjab plains and Haryana

Assam

Himachal Pradesh

Tripura

Jammu & Kashmir

Mizoram

Rajasthan

Meghalaya

Gujarat

Arunachal Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh

West Bengal

Andhra Pradesh

Bihar

Tamil Nadu

Uttar Pradesh

Eastern Offshore, Bay of Bengal

Manipur

East Coast (Arabian Sea) and

Orissa

Western Offshore

Andaman

Based on these efforts, a number of hydrocarbon bearing structures/fields have been discovered and production is already being obtained from structures/fields in Gujarat, Assam, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and from West Coast Offshore areas.

(b) The present level of self-sufficiency in crude oil is about 59%. As the exploration for oil is highly probabilistic in nature, it is not possible to indicate with certainty as to when self-sufficiency would be attained. Besides availability of Plan outlays and growth in demand for petroleum products have also an important bearing on achievement of self-sufficiency in crude oil.

**LPG Agencies in Muzaffar Nagar,
Meerut and Ghaziabad**

8791. SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction any new gas agencies in Western Uttar Pradesh, especially in Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad districts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURU-
PADASWAMY): (a) and (b). As at present
41 LPG distributorships have been planned
at various locations in Western Uttar Pradesh
including the districts of Muzaffar Nagar,
Meerut and Ghaziabad as per the details
given in the Statement. These are at various
stages of selection of distributors and com-
missioning of agencies.

(c) Does not arise.