

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you inviting trouble ? Already, there is a dispute regarding the signatures on the passport forms.

Thermal Power Generation in Kapurdi Area (Rajasthan)

*227. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work to process lignite in sufficient quantity for generating 500 megawatts thermal power in Kapurdi area of Barmer District of Rajasthan is being carried out by the Mineral Exploration Corporation under the directions of the Expert Group constituted by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the time by which the project report in this regard will be prepared; and

(d) whether Government propose to meet the power requirement of desert areas and other parts of the State by including the said scheme in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) M/s. Mineral Exploration Corporation have been commissioned to evaluate the lignite potential of the Kapurdi area in the Barmer District.

(b) The present estimate of deposits is approximately 57 million tonnes. Movable deposits have yet to be established.

(c) The report of M/s. Mineral Exploration Corporation is expected to be completed by 1987-88.

(d) If movable commercial deposits are established, only, thereafter, the question of including this scheme in the Seventh or Eighth Plan can be considered for meeting the power requirements of the desert areas and other parts of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Mineral Exploration

Corporation has been doing exploratory and drilling work in Kapurdi area of Barmer district for the last four years. Earlier also, when I asked this question, an assurance was given that this work would be completed by 1986-87 and only after its completion a conclusion would be arrived at whether 500 MW Power station could be set up or of a different capacity. Therefore, I would like to know the reasons for its delay. Is the non-availability of drilling machines at the site one of the reasons ? Will the Government accelerate the pace of this work ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been no delay in this matter and the work is going on according to the schedule. Compared to the drilling done earlier, now the drilling is being done very closely so that a definite assessment of how movable deposits are spread out could be made. Only after the completion of this work in 1987-88, we shall be able to assess the quantum of commercially movable and viable resources which in turn will help us decide the capacity of the power house to be set up. This is the process and unless these things are known, no further step can be taken. Eleven agencies are engaged in this operation and the exploration work is in full swing.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Sir, I know that the information regarding the commercial viability of the mineral deposits is essential and then only the project can be set up, but I would like to know whether in view of the power crisis in the desert areas in Rajasthan, the speed of this work would be accelerated and it would be taken up on war footing ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work is already going on war footing.

[English]

Import and Export of Crude Oil

*228. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL † : SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

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

(a) the quantity of crude oil imported during 1984 and 1985 and whether any contract has been signed for 1986;

(b) the quantity of crude oil likely to be imported during 1986, the countries from which to be imported and at what rate;

(c) the steps being taken to increase the production of crude within the country to reduce the import;

(d) whether India is also exporting crude oil;

(e) if so, the quantity of crude exported during 1984 and 1985 and likely to be exported during 1986;

(f) whether any contract has been signed in this regard; and

(g) whether the export of crude oil is being made by some private sector firms/companies; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SAEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (g). A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b). Quantity of crude oil imported during 1984 and 1985 is 15.9 MMT and 13.8 MMT respectively. No contracts with countries have been finalised so far in 1986. The import of crude oil during 1986 is estimated to be 14.664 MMT.

(c) Steps taken to increase the production of crude within the country include intensification of exploration, use of enhanced recovery techniques, induction of advanced technology and conservation measures to curb consumption.

(d) and (e). Quantities of crude exported during 1984 and 1985 were 6.7 MMT and 1.9 MMT respectively. No export is envisaged in 1986.

(f) and (g). The export is made through tenders in international oil market.

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Sir, today we are importing oil and spending huge amount of foreign exchange. Government is increasing duty on petroleum products with a view that the consumption of

petroleum becomes less. So, I would like to know, firstly, whether the actual consumption of petroleum in the last three years has decreased or not and, secondly, what will be the percentage of indigenous production of crude oil at the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan for meeting the total demand.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, I have explained the position on the floor of the House that during the last eighteen months the rate of growth of consumption of petroleum and petroleum products has been seven percent. The details have already been given. I have also explained how the situation is going to develop in the Seventh Plan period. I would like to tell the hon. Member that while during the Sixth Plan period in 1980-81 the degree of self-sufficiency involved was of the order of 31.6 per cent, at the end of the Sixth Plan period we reached a figure of 70 per cent. But the present projections are that this is going to decline and by the year 1989-90, the degree of self-sufficiency may go down to 61 per cent or so.

SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Sir, my second supplementary is whether there is a long pending demand to increase the royalty on oil from oil producing States, specially from Gujarat and whether the Government has taken any decision. If yes, what are the details and when will it be implemented and, if not, when will the decision be taken?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, the demand has been under consideration of the Government for increase of royalty, both from the States of Gujarat and Assam. I had a discussion with the Chief Ministers of both the States and it is expected that we are going to raise the royalty very soon.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister which are the countries from where the crude oil was imported in 1985 and 1986 and what is the amount of foreign exchange involved and when there is indigenous requirement of crude oil, what was the necessity of exporting it to the foreign countries in 1985 and 1986?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : The countries from which we are importing oil are well-known. They are : USSR, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Oman, United Arab

Emirates and such other countries. The actual foreign exchange outgo on account of imports in the year 1984-85 has been Rs. 3,527 crores. In the year 1985-86 the revised estimates are Rs. 4555 crores. In the year 1986-87 we shall try to take it down to Rs. 4091 crores. This is the situation in respect of our foreign exchange outgo on account of our imports. (*Interruption*) Some export has been under limitation on account of our refining capacity which has been increased in the 6th Plan period. Hence forward there is no likelihood of exports of crude from this country.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : While importing and exporting of crude oil there is a loss of Rs. 7 crores to the ONGC in 1985. When you check up the bills of ONGC office in Calcutta, you will find that the bill Nos. starting from 20231 to 20750 show a swindling of funds of Rs. 60 lakhs. And that happened between 17th November 1985 to 26th December 1985. If it is correct, what is the action that is proposed to be taken by the Government in this matter? Will the Government order a CBI inquiry into the matter?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, the hon. Member is referring to a specific thing. But I would like to make it clear that the ONGC has nothing to do with import or export of oil. The canalising agency for import and export is the IOC. There might be some other difficulty or something wrong with ONGC. If the Member writes to me I shall certainly look into it.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN : Is the Government prepared to order a CBI inquiry into the matter?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : You may write to me; I shall certainly look into it. If there is a prima facie thing I will look into it.

SHRI TARUN KANTI GHOSH : When the prices fall in the international market in a big way, that is almost 50 per cent, why should the saving of foreign exchange be so small?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Because our imports are likely to go up as

explained, the degree of self-sufficiency is declining in the next 4 years. So our imports will go up. Therefore although the prices have fallen down substantially we do not know about what is going to happen in the future. But the total reduction is not in proportion to the fall in international prices. I may assure the House that we are taking full advantage of the present international situation in respect of oil prices.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : In consonance with the decrease in oil prices in the oil market I would like to ask the Minister where is the need for entering into long term contract with oil companies instead of purchasing the oil across the counter.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : We purchase through two methods. First there is long term contract for a certain quantity. If it is in the interest of the country and in the interest of maintenance of commercial relations with some of the oil production countries then we enter into agreements. But in respect of these countries also we do not go for official prices. We are trying to negotiate with them on market-related prices or spot purchase. So that is not going to affect our total cost for the oil that we may get from them.

Commissioning of Automatic Telephone Exchange at Leh

*229. **SHRI P. NAMGYAL :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Automatic Telephone Exchange was to be commissioned at Leh during the year 1985 and the building for the same has already been constructed and completed;

(b) if so, the reasons for non-commissioning of the exchange so far; and

(c) the time by which the Exchange is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.