

to become self-sufficient it is necessary to set up fertiliser plants.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : The mines of Saladi-pur, Rajasthan are completely ready for exploitation. They may also be included.

[*English*]

SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : May I know whether it is a fact that sanction has been granted for the expansion of the fertiliser factory in Phulpur if so, what are the steps being taken to implement that?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Regarding Phulpur I do not have the detail and I require notice.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Have we to thump the desks for breaking his long silence?

MR. SPEAKER : Have you got any objection?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I have no objection to his silence.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Of the 11 gas based fertiliser factories to be taken up in the Seventh Plan, whether Andhra Pradesh is considered as one of them because of the fact that enough gas is available in the Krishna-Godavari basin?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : In Andhra Pradesh licence has been given for the production of urea to the State Industrial Development Corporation. And the letter of intent has already been given for the production of DAP. Unfortunately, so far the progress has been very unsatisfactory. I know that there is a demand. If the State Government pushes through these two projects and bring them to a particular shape, certainly we will see whether it will be possible to have one or two more included.

Setting up of Petro-Chemical Complex in Krishna-Godavari Basin

*3 SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state whether Government propose to set up a Petro-Chemical Complex in Krishna-Godavari basin, based on natural gas as its feedstock, as is proposed at Nagathane in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI

NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : At present, there is no such proposal.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that the Government is spending thousands of crores of rupees in constructing the pipeline to supply the gas to several fertiliser units that are proposed to be set up at very very far off places, and here in the instant case a large quantity of gas is available as has already been proved with the explorations, will the Government now examine a proposal to set up a petro-chemical complex just on the line of Nagathane in Maharashtra ? It is in the national interest that huge quantities of natural gas is available in the Krishna Godavari basin.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : With regard to the question of examining the setting up of a petro-chemical project in Andhra Pradesh in the Krishna-Godavari basin, it is not true that a large quantity of gas is available there. In fact, the geological reserves of gas in this basin as on 1.1.84 are estimated at about 5 billion cubic metres.

With this quantity of gas has so far been assessed, it is not possible to set up a petro-chemical project. If and when we are able to find out larger amount of proven gas availability, then certainly at that stage this question can be considered, but that will depend on many other considerations.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : At the time when the Government of Andhra Pradesh asked for the supply of natural gas, they were told by the ONGC that Rs 900 per 1,000 cubic metres will have to be paid for the same, but the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Government of India to supply this gas at the same rate at which it was being supplied to the Government of Maharashtra for the units proposed and set up by the Government of Maharashtra. I would like to know whether the ONGC will supply gas to the Andhra Pradesh also at some price.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : As I have said, the reserves of gas are 5.5 billion cubic metres and these are yet to be assessed. The total availability is not sufficient for setting up a petro-chemical project. Therefore, the question of supplying gas at a particular rate does not arise. However, the Andhra Pradesh Government has moved the petroleum Ministry for supply

of gas for a power unit, turbo-generating set, which is being examined.

SHRI R.P. DAS : Sir, I very much support the proposal of Shri Rao regarding setting up of a petro-chemical complex in Krishna-Godavari basin. In this connection, would like to know whether the Government will ensure supply of neptha to the tune of six lakhs metric tonne annually to the Haldia petro-chemical project which is being set up in the joint sector, a decision on which has been taken recently.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I am happy to learn that the West Bengal Government is proposing to set up the Haldia petro-chemical project in the joint sector. As and when there is need, we will try to meet the demand if possible.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the central Government have given approval to the setting up of caprolactam up in Bihar under the petro-chemical group of industries? If so, the details regarding its progress and the time by which the work will commence ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir so far as my information goes, government have, perhaps, given the approval for caprolactam and when approval has been given, it is hoped the work would start soon.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, will the hon. Minister tell the House as to what are the estimated gas stocks at Bombay High to feed the six gas-based fertilizer plants on the HBJ pipeline? I am putting this question with a view to finding out whether there is such a possibility in Krishna-Godavari basin.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The gas availability for the six fertilizer plants which are coming up, is sufficient to meet the demand of these fertilizer plants. But that is not the case with regard to the Krishna-Godavari basin.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : For Krishna-Godavari basin you have given the figure as 5.5 billion cubic metres. What about Bombay High ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I think it is roughly 320 billion cubic metre. I do not exactly remember but it is nearly that much.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all right.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I require a separate notice for that.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : I want to know from the hon. Minister what the route of the proposed gas pipe line from Bombay high to Mathura would be? will it reach Mathura via Marathwada, vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh or will it pass through Gujarat ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Although this question is not related to the main question, yet I would like to inform him that it would reach Mathura via Gujarat.

[English]

Recommendations of Export Committee on tyre Industry

*4. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government propose to take any action on the recommendations of expert committee on the tyre industry ; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). (Recommendations of the Satyapal Committee) are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : If we go by the number, There are a dozen big Companies manufacturing tyres, but 70 per cent of the market is being controlled by four companies at present. The price of a tyre which stood at Rs. 3,560, on 1st October, 1984, has shot up to Rs. 4,160 on 1st January, 1985, i.e., an increase of Rs. 600 in three months. Thereafter, an increase of 9 per cent was registered in March. Thus, They are raising the price arbitrarily and Government have no control on them. Government convene a meeting of the manufacturers and they say yes to the directives of Government but raise the prices