

plant will be allotted to some other party. There are parties who want to set up gas based fertiliser plants on behalf of their companies. There is no dearth of such people. If the party to whom the plant has been allotted does not take action, then we will think whether the allotment should remain with that party or it should be awarded to some other party.

MR. SPEAKER : Have you any intention of converting that party to zero or not ?

PROF. MADAU DANDAVATE : Do not allot it to the Congress Party.

SHRIMATI VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : The Hon. Minister has said that installation of the plant is possible at a place where the pipeline passes. The pipeline going from Guna passes via Tikamgarh. Tikamgarh district is industrially a very backward district and keeping in view the shortage of fertilisers, will the Hon. Minister set up a fertiliser plant there so that the people there get jobs and the fertilizer requirement of the country could also be met.

MR. SPEAKER : Only because the pipeline passes through that place.

SMT. VIDYAVATI CHATURVEDI : He has said that the plant can be set up at a place where the pipeline passes.

[English]

**Purchase of anchor-cum-supply Vessels
by O.N.G.C.**

*289. **SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to purchase eight sophisticated anchor-cum-supply vessels from a South Korean concern; and

(b) if so, the number and cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) & (b). Yes, Sir, ONGC has placed an order on M/s. Samsung Korea for the fabrication of 8 offshore supply vessels each costing US \$ 4.979 million.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : It seems that, for the last couple of years, the ONGC has been going in for a lot a global tenders for the purchase of rigs, sophisticated anchor-cum-supply vessels, etc., etc., and it seems that all the orders are going to this one particular country. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he has the details of other global tenders, whether global tenders were floated at all and if so, which are the other parties which had given their tenders for these anchor-cum-supply vessels ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that the ONGC float global tenders for its requirement wherever it is necessary. So far as these vessels are concerned, the ONGC floated a global tender, and 44 parties, in response to the global tender, offered tenders. Out of these, 37 parties were short-listed, and out of these 37 parties, only 24 parties, submitted revised bids in response to ONGC's request by the closing date, i.e., 23-5-1983. Out of these 24 parties, later on, twelve parties were found eligible. So far as the names are concerned, I would give the names of the parties. The names of these twelve parties are : Promet, Singapore; Samsung; Korea; Modec, Japan; Daewoo, Korea; Gul Engineering, Singapore; Asia Pacific, Singapore...

MR. SPEAKER : You may lay it on the Table.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : He wanted the names, Sir. That is why, I am reading.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : This information may be laid on the Table of the House. My second supplementary is this. There are many other companies which have been doing this in other countries. How is it that, for the ONGC, only the Koreans come out as the best, technical-wise and financial-ability-wise ? If you go into the details, I am sure you will find that there are also other companies doing a better job. May I know from the Hon Minister whether he is going to consider on merits other global tenders also and will he go into the details and look into it or he will leave it to the 'ONGC only ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : When global tenders are floated, then every

company has a right to submit their tenders. The reason for selection of this Korean party was that their tender was the lowest and as it was the lowest, we had no option but to select them.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : Lowest in quality ?

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : What about technically—Quality-wise ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is acceptable from the point of view of quality and also the lowest from the point of view of price. Whenever a tender is floated, then the technical aspects of it are gone into and when it is approved that it is technically all right, then only you go for such and such party.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether it is a fact that ONGC every year requires apart from this a lot of other equipment like pumps, drilling machines, etc. for their operations and whether it is also a fact that the ONGC in 1982 made an appeal to the Indian industry to make these equipments indigenously so that we can reduce our imports and become self-reliant ? If so, if such equipments are available in the country, will the Hon. Minister assure the House that instead of importing them, they will go in for the indigenous Indian equipments for ONGC operations ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : We are interested in indigenisation and our attempt is towards that direction. We are trying to get as much of equipment as is required and which is available in the country. Therefore, there is no question of assurance, rather it is the policy of ONGC. If my friend has any question about it or any doubt about anything, he can certainly write to me.

Introduction of Fibre Optics for Commercial use

*290. **SHRI G. G. SWELL :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have experimen-

ted with fibre optics for transmission or any other purpose;

(b) if so, the results thereof; and

(c) whether Government have adopted any time-frame within which fibre optics will be introduced for commercial use ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some trials have been carried out for telecommunications transmission.

(b) The results have shown that this technology has applications in the telecommunication net-work in India for digital transmission.

(c) The 7th Five Year Plan proposals provide for introduction of fibre optic cables in some of the routes in the telecommunication network for commercial use.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I am afraid the Minister is, I would say, trying to slur over the question and has not made clear where these trials have been made—he could have mentioned that—and with what results, whether these fibre optics are being produced today within the country or whether you are importing some of them. I am saying this because fibre optics are one of a new order of the 21st century and the Prime Minister has said that we should prepare ourselves for the 21st century from to-day. I am sure the Minister knows what are the capacities of a fibre optic. They are hair-thin glass fibres which can be taken around corners. They are so powerful that they can transmit laser beams through fibre optics. In comparison to the copper wires which carry only 24 messages, the hair-thin fibre optics can carry 1000 messages, together with a picture of the people who are using the telecommunication from one side to the other. This is the kind of thing. I would like to know where these trials have been made, whether we have taken steps to manufacture the fibre optics within the country and what preparations you are making.

SRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : I agree with the Hon. Member that fibre optics is a very modern method of transmission of messages.