

(b) the bye-products of Bombay High; and

(c) whether Government proposed to tap them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) (a) The total production of crude oil from Western Offshore fields during 1984-85 was 20.1 million tonnes.

(b) and (c). The bye-product of the crude oil is associated natural gas which in any case comes out with crude oil. About 60 percent of this gas is utilised for fertilizer and power production and in the refineries at Bombay.

#### Retention Price System for Fertilizers

\*454. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Retention Price System for fertilizers has failed to achieve the desired objectives and has led to increasing quantum of subsidy;

(b) whether the failure of the said System has forced the Government to go in for more imports ; and

(c) if so, the present thinking of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) The retention price scheme for fertilizers is linked with the Government policy to make the fertilizers, the most important input for increasing agricultural production, available to the farmers at reasonable and controlled prices. The retention price scheme is meant to encourage and increase indigenous production of fertilizers by enabling the manufacturers to obtain a reasonable return on their investment. The objective of the retention price scheme has been fully met,

going by the substantial increase in the production of fertilizers over the years. Incidentally, the retention prices scheme is reviewed periodically, and to ensure that changes to improve its effectiveness further to achieve the objective are duly ensured and the increase in subsidy burden is obviated, except where such increase is justified on account of (a) increase in input costs and (b) increase in volume of production, domestically. With this end in view, currently a High Powered Committee is reviewing the present system for suggestions for improvements, etc.

(b) Though production of fertilizers has increased over the years, helped by the retention price scheme, there has been a progressive increase in demand also due to the growth of agriculture. Imports have, therefore, to be made to supplement our own production.

(c) As substantial imports of fertilizers are result of demand growth outstripping the indigenous capacity for production, the basic thrust for future of Government policy is to ensure installation of additional capacity based on reliable technology. In this context, it may be noted that two-twin units of large gas-based fertilizers plants are under commissioning and would be in production soon, and in addition, 6 gas-based plants have been cleared for implementation during the 7th Five Year Plan. Imports are expected to be minimised after these plants go into production.

[Translation]

#### Linking of Faizabad (U.P.) with Major Cities by S.T.D.

\*456. SHRI R. P. SUMAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Faizabad District headquarters in Uttar Pradesh was linked with major telephone exchanges including Delhi, Patna, Jaipur and Bhubneshwar by S.T.D. service in August, 1984;

(b) if so, whether this service is still operative;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) when it is proposed to restore that facility; and

(e) whether Government also propose to provide S.T.D. facility to major industrial towns of district Faizabad, namely Akbarpur Jalalpur and Tanda where large number of weavers live and if so, when ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :** (a) Yes Sir. Via Kanpur TAX. (Trunk Automatic Exchange).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) & (d). Not applicable.

(e) Fairabad is connected to Kanpur Trunk Automatic Exchange and S.T.D. service is available to a number of stations from Faizabad. STD service between Faizabad and more number of cities has been proposed during 7th Plan period.

Due to limited availability of switching and transmission equipment even a large number of priority stations like district headquarters are yet to be provided with STD facilities. The STD facilities to stations like Akbarpur, Jalalpur and Tanda will be considered after meeting the requirements of priority stations.

**Assistance to M/s Wyman Gorden Forge and Allied Industries**

**\*457. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have been urged to give assistance to the defence oriented Wyman Gorden Forge and Allied Industries Limited at Kudal in Sindhudurg District of the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra to keep its operations on at full level or in the alternative take over the industrial concern in the interest of workers as well as production; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and the steps taken ?

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** (a) and (b). There was a request made to Government for the take over of Woman Gorden Forge and Allied Industries Limited. The request was examined but accommodation in the matter of recovery of advances given to the firm by the Ministry of Defence, which is under examination.

**Shortage of Nylon Fabric**

**\*458. SHRI B. V. DESAI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rubber industry is deeply concerned over the inadequate availability of indigenous nylon fabric and abnormally high cost of imported material due to high customs and excise duties;

(b) if so, whether inadequate availability of nylon fabric has affected the rubber production; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help the rubber industry to overcome this situation.

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) :** (a) to (c). There has been a marginal shortfall in the indigenous availability of nylon tyre cord as compared to the requirements of the automotive tyre industry due to closure of one of the major tyre cord units in the country. However, this has not affected production of tyre and other rubber-based industries using nylon tyre cord.

**Import of Oil**

**\*459. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated oil imports during the current year;

(b) Whether all contracts for import