

(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

of crude oil have been concluded;

(c) Whether according to an analysis of data from major industrialised nations, world oil demand which seemed to be reviving during 1984, is likely to head for a new slump during this year; and

(d) if so, Government's proposals for buying oil in the falling market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) During the calendar year 1985, the estimated import of crude oil will be 14.6 million tonnes.

(b) All the contracts with foreign National Oil Companies have been concluded.

(c) and (d). There are conflicting reports on estimated demand for oil in the world during 1985. However, a constant watch is kept on the market. Nearly one third of our oil requirements is purchased in the spot market to take advantage of the lower prices.

Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project

***460. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States where Fertilizers Education and Agricultural Development Programme is undertaken in the name of Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project;

(b) whether it is going to be wound up next year;

(c) whether the Overseas Development Administration Monitoring Team of U.K. Government has visited these projects in the first week of March, 1985; and

(d) if so, the recommendations made by this team?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND

COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Indo-British Fertilizer Education Project is being implemented by M s Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited in selected districts of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The project is for a period of five years which is expiring in the middle of 1986.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The recommendations of this monitoring team have not been received so far.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

***461. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken off-shore and on-shore drilling operations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the number of such drilling operations conducted and the results thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to intensify exploration of oil and natural gas in these Islands; and

(d) if so, what are the proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Exploratory drilling has been undertaken by ONGC, only in the offshore area where four wells have been drilled so far. One of them produced gas at the rate of 1.8 lakh cubic meters per day.

(c) and (d). Another offshore well was spudded in April 1985. During 1985-87 drilling of five wells is contemplated by ONGC, Oil India Limited is also planning to take up drilling in some parts of the basin.

Import of Crude Oil

***462. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD :** Will