

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no pilot projects for locating oil. Eight pilot projects have, however, been taken up by ONGC for enhanced oil recovery in Gujarat.

(c) The amount spent on these pilot projects was Rs 0.13 crores in 1984-85 and Rs. 2.19 crores in 1985-86.

Setting up of thermal power stations in Kerala

*190. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal/representation has been received from Kerala Government for installing thermal power stations at Baliapatam in Cannanore district and at Nilambur in Malapuram district, Kerala;

(b) if so, whether any study/survey has been made by Government in this regard; and

(c) the decision taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) The Kerala State Electricity Board had requested Central Electricity Authority to prepare, as Consultants to the Board, a feasibility report for setting up a thermal power station in the State. The Central Electricity Authority are engaged in the preparation of the report.

Petrochemical complex at Manali near Madras

*191. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a petrochemical plant at Manali near Madras;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the time by which it will start functioning; and

(d) the funds allocated for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO) : (a) and (b) A letter of Intent has been issued to M/s. Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) on February 6, 1987 for the manufacture of following petrochemicals at Manali near Madras :—

(i) Ortho-xylene	30,000 tonnes
(ii) Benzene	30,000 tonnes
(iii) Purified Terephthalic Acid	1,50,000 tonnes

(c) Madras Refineries Limited have indicated that the plant is expected to be commissioned 42 months after obtaining the clearances of all approvals.

(d) The estimated capital cost of the project will become known after completion of the feasibility report. The mode of financing will be decided thereafter.

Communication facilities in Nizamabad district, Andhra Pradesh

*192. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges being set up in Nizamabad, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the additional facilities in the field of communications proposed to be extended to Nizamabad district ?