

- (ii) Margin money scheme for sick small scale industrial units.

Filing of a Suit in U.S. Court by Union Government Against Union Carbide

467. SHRI G.G. SWELL :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOJ :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in its capacity of *parens patriae*, Government will bring a suit in an American court against the Union Carbide Corporation for the Bhopal gas leak disaster ;

(b) whether Government propose to deal with hordes of suits on behalf of gas victims or their legal heirs reportedly to be/have been filed by an assortment of American lawyers who visited Bhopal in the wake of the disaster ; and

(c) whether Government have any contingency plan in the event of the suit being thrown out on ground that the tragedy did not occur on American soil ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS, FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) : Government is committed to do all that is possible to secure that claims arising out of, or connected with, the Bhopal gas leak disaster are dealt with speedily, effectively, equitably and to the best advantage of all the claimants. Necessary powers in this behalf have been vested in the Central Government by the provisions of the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Ordinance. These would enable Government to represent the claimants. The Ordinance contains express provisions with regard to the representation by the Central Government of the claimants with respect to the claims filed before American Courts before the promulgation of the Ordinance. Government would, according to the developments, do whatever is to the best advantage of the claimants.

Cooking Gas for Common People

[*Translation*]

468. SHRI C.D. GAMIT :
SHRI ANANTAPRASAD SETHI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which India will become self-reliant in cooking gas ;

(b) whether consumption of gas has remained confined to the upper class people living in cities ;

(c) if so, whether, Government have any plan under which gas could be made available to the common people ; and

(d) whether Government have planned production of cylinders to cater to increased requirements that should accrue if they are able to tap the available gas fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) On the basis of current projections of availability of LPG from various indigenous sources, it is expected that full requirement of all domestic customers can be met by the year 1990.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The manufacturing capacity for LPG cylinders is adequate to meet the increasing demand.

Opening of a Branch Post Office in Saistabar Panchayat in Jhanawara Sub-Division

469. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no post office in Saistabar Panchayat in Jhanawara Sub-Division ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to open a branch post office in this area which has a population of 8000 persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) : A Branch Post Office is functioning in the Saistabad Panchayat from 30.12.1983.

[English]

Exploration Drilling Programme of O.N.G.C. in Bengal Basin

470. SHRI R.P. DAS :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state the details of the exploration and drilling programme of the Coal and Natural Gas Commission in the Bengal basin ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : ONGC envisages conducting 2 party years of Gravity Magnetic Surveys, 6 party years of Seismic Surveys and drilling of 20.8 thousand metres with 2 well completion in Bengal basin during the financial year 1985-86.

Firing Exercises in Delhi Cantonment Area

471. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether firing range of Delhi Cantonment Military authorities was under adverse comment in the local Press and if so, the details thereof ;

(b) since when this range for firing exercise was under use ;

(c) whether a good number of residential colonies have sprung up in the vicinity of this range, which came up as unauthorised colonies in the beginning and later were regularised civil authorities ;

(d) whether Military authorities intervened in the matter when unauthorised colonies were coming up and later when they were regularised ; and

(e) if so, whether Military authorities propose to find a safer place for firing exercises ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This range has been in use for the past 50 years or so.

(c) Two colonies namely Narain Vihar and Inderpuri are located to the North West of this firing range, at a distance of approximately 3000 meters.

(d) Military authorities are not concerned as these colonies are not on Military lands.

(d) This is the only range available for training of troops of nearly 120 units stationed in and around Delhi. Its shifting would not be advisable as it would adversely affect the training of troops. However, the safety of residents in the area will not be compromised and additional security measures are being taken.

Setting up of Petro Chemical Projects in the States

472. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which had proposed to the Union Government to set up Petro-Chemical projects in their respective States during the Sixth Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) the State which had offered the Union Government 40 per cent equity share and direct participation in implementing the Petro-Chemical Project in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.