

known technology has been undertaken. The present strategy is to encourage large bio-gas units which are economically viable. Considerable progress has been achieved in the utilisation of organic waste, and pilot projects to set up viable family size bio-gas plants have also been taken up. Several community bio-gas plants of larger size are under construction at selected locations. Over 70,000 bio-gas plants have already been set up in the country.

बिहार राज्य के बैंगूराय में पेट्रो-रसायन कारखाने की स्थापना करने का प्रस्ताव

\* 441. श्रीमती कृष्णा साहू : क्या पेट्रो-रसायन तथा रसायन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या बिहार राज्य के बैंगूराय जिले में पेट्रो-रसायन कारखाने की स्थापना करने का एक प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;

(ख) क्या लोग बैंगूराय में इस कारखाने की स्थापना के लिए निरन्तर मांग कर रहे हैं ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार का विचार वहां पर उस कारखाने की स्थापना कब करने का है ?

पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री वीरेन्द्र पाटिल) : (क) पेट्रो-रसायन पर पुनर्गठित कार्यकारी ग्रुप की रिपोर्ट के आधार पर सरकार देख में कई पेट्रो-रसायन उद्योग समूह स्थापित करने पर विचार कर रही है ।

(ख) इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ सुझाव दिये जा रहे हैं ।

(ग) पेट्रो-रसायन के उत्पादन के लिये खर्च लगाने के लिये स्थल चयन समितियां गठित की गई हैं । इन संयंत्रों को लगाने के स्थान के बारे में निर्णय इन समितियों को रिपोर्ट मिलने के बाद किया जायेगा ।

#### Production of Ammonia by Sindri Fertilizer Plant

\*442. SHRI A. K. ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the number of days the Sindri Fertilizer plant (both old and the new) actually worked to produce ammonia

between 1-1-80 to 31-5-80; facts in details;

(b) whether it is a fact that shortage of raw material is the major bottleneck in the running of the new diesel based plant;

(c) whether this difficulty is likely to remain as a permanent one;

(d) if so, do Government propose to renovate the old coal based plant of Sindri; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a to (c). The ammonia plants of the old Sindri Unit did not operate during the period 1.1.80 to 31.5.80. The plants had been closed by July, 1979 as they were uneconomic and unsafe to operate.

The ammonia plant of the new unit at Sindri, namely, the Sindri Modernisation plant, also did not operate during most of the above period. The plant had to be shut down on the evening of 16th January, 1980 due to stock out of Fuel Oil/LSHS feedstock. The shut-down continues on account of closure of Bongaigaon refinery based on Assam crude and consequent stoppage of LSHS/Fuel oil supply to Sindri plant. The plant will be restarted after Assam situation normalises and feedstock becomes available.

(d) and (e). The old Coal-based plants of Sindri were closed down as they had outlived their normal life and were unsafe and uneconomic to operate. The question of renovating the plants does not, therefore, arise.

#### Foreign Oil Companies

\*443. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any information that the foreign oil companies are still operating in India in one form or another;