

(b) if so, whether the State Government had urged the Centre to request the Himachal Pradesh and also the Punjab Governments to supply more power to meet the State's demand of power;

(c) if so, whether both the State Governments have agreed to supply the same; and

(d) to what extent the gap of power shortage has been filled by these two States?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Normally Jammu and Kashmir meets its power requirement fully on its own during the month of April—October. However, this year, between May 15 to May 24, 1980 there was a break-down in one of the Power Stations which resulted in reduction in power supply to the extent of 70 MW.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Punjab and Bhakra Beas Management Board agreed to supply 40 MW to Jammu & Kashmir.

(d) Assistance received was of the order of 40 MW against an estimated shortage of about 70 MW during the period 15th to 24th May, 1980.

Drilling Operations in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

*29. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering increase in the drilling operations in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands; if so, the details; and

(b) the results of the completed drilling operations?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). The Oil and Natural Gas Commission is currently drilling and testing

an exploratory well in the Andaman off shore area. Another exploratory well in the area is planned to be drilled in 1980-81.

Further drilling programme in the area will depend on the processing and interpretation of the data which will be obtained from these wells.

Anti-Erosion Measures in the Hooghly

*30. SHRI ANAND PATHAK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state what measures are being taken for anti-erosion in the Hooghly from Calcutta port to the sea and between Jangipur and Murshidabad in the Bhagirathi?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): The West Bengal Government has reported that about 50 anti-erosion schemes have been taken up in the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Jangipur in the district of Murshidabad to Mitua Brus in the district of 24 Paraganas to protect affected reaches on either bank of the Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. The State Government has made a budget provision of Rs. 245 lakhs for 1980-81 for these schemes.

Calcutta Port Trust has also adopted anti-erosion measures on Bhagirathi-Hooghly system at vulnerable reaches both upstream and downstream of Calcutta, specifically to prevent undesirable morphological changes in the river from navigational point of view.

Drilling for Oil in Tripura by O.N.G.C.

*31. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) how many drilling points in Tripura have been undertaken and details thereof;