

(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;

(b) whether ONGC has been able to reach the target point of any well in Tripura so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) ONGC has so far completed drilling of four wells on the Baramura structure in Tripura. In addition, drilling is currently in progress in 2 wells—one on the Baramura structure and the other on the Gojalia structure.

(b) It has been possible to drill down to the target depth in respect of any of the four completed wells.

(c) The main reason for not being able to reach the target depth has been the abnormally high pressures encountered while drilling, resulting in frequent down hole complications.

Non-availability of Diesel and Petroleum Products

*32. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is still facing a great hardship due to non-availability of diesel and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a): Some reports regarding shortages of High Speed Diesel and other petroleum products have been received by the Government.

(b) The demand for diesel and other petroleum products in the country had gone up steeply on account of shortfall in power generation, large scale movement of bulk goods by road instead of rail and recent drought conditions in several

parts of the country. Moreover, due to the agitations in Assam, the 3 refineries located in that State and Barauni refinery in Bihar had to be shut down from December, 1979/January, 1980. The Gauhati, and Digboi refineries in Assam are functioning now but the Bongaigaon refinery remains closed. The Berauni refinery in Bihar with a 3.3 million capacity continues to remain closed. Apart from the loss of production involved, the closure of these refineries considerably affected the transportation capacity as the Barauni-Kanpur pipeline which transports products of Barauni refinery could not be fully utilized. Areas served by this pipeline could not be fully satisfied by railway movement.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the Government to ease the situation:—

(i) Maximisation of import of petroleum products like diesel and kerosene so that these are no problems of availability of these products at port locations.

(ii) Improving the rail movement of petroleum products by pressing into service more tank wagons, reducing the turn-around time of rail wagons, according higher priority to the movement of these wagons over goods and passenger services, setting up of a special cell in the Railway Board to monitor the tank wagon movement, etc.

(iii) Maximisation of road movement of diesel and kerosene by the oil companies.

(iv) Advising the State Governments to ensure equitable distribution of diesel and kerosene under the Essential Commodities Act and the rules and orders framed thereunder, and also to invoke the provisions of the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance of supplies of Essential Commodities Act against those indulging in Black-marketing, hoarding etc.