

that the current level of imports of acrylic fibre would have an adverse impact on I.P.C.L.'s production plan;

(c) if so, whether he had strongly recommended for fresh look at import policy and excise duty relief to improve the financial position of IPCL; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) IPCL has not incurred huge losses. Accounts for the year 1979-80 are under Audit. The provisional figures show a net profit of Rs. 3.91 crores for the year after providing for a depreciation of Rs. 26 crores.

(b) The Chairman and Managing Director of IPCL brought to the notice of the Government in September, 1979, the adverse impact of the then prevalent level of imports of Acrylic Fibre on IPCL's production plans.

(c) and (d). The Government have reduced the excise duty on acrylic fibre and have also canalised its imports in order to protect IPCL from large scale imports of the fibre on OGL. Government have also permitted IPCL to import bicomponent fibre, to improve the saleability of their acrylic fibre. The recent reduction in duty on Low Density Polyethylene and Polypropylene would also help IPCL's sale of these products.

Aromatic Complex at Cochin

*235. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI P. J. KURIEN:

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

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the proposed Aromatic Complex at Cochin; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). No decision has yet been taken on the proposal for setting up an Aromatic Complex at Cochin.

Discovery of New Oil Structures

*236. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new oil structures have been discovered;

(b) if so, their production potential;

(c) what further efforts are being made to explore oil resources in the country; and

(d) if so, where and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Since 1-1-1979 seventeen oil/gas bearing structures have been discovered.

(b) Assessment of production potential of all new oil structures discovered is yet to be carried out.

(c) and (d). Intensive geological and seismic surveys and drilling is being carried out with the mobilisation of additional resources in Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan Tamil Nadu, Tripura, U.P., West Bengal onshore and in the continental shelf of the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea offshore. As a result of the efforts made so far, oil/gas has been discovered onshore in 6 structures in Gujarat, 2 structures in Assam, 1 in Arunachal Pradesh, 1 in Andhra Pradesh and 7 structures offshore, since 1-1-1979.