

Daily Production in Bombay High

*37. SHRI CHRISHTOPHER EKKA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM,
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be
pleased to state:

(a) the current average daily pro-
duction rate of oil in the Bombay
High;

(b) whether it is a fact that the
ONGC has recently commissioned a
central process platform in the nor-
thern part of Bombay High field;

(c) whether ONGC has proposed to
instal some oil production and process
platforms in the next few years;

(d) their total number; and

(e) what will be the average daily
production of oil after installation of
the new platforms in the next few
years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The
average daily production in July was
137,566 barrels per day.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e). It is proposed to in-
stal thirrtten platform by the end of
May 1982.

A plan is being drawn up to install
another sixteen platforms by May
1983. The requirement of platforms
for subsequent years is under finalisa-
tion. After the installation of all the
necessary platforms in the Bombay
High area the field is expected to pro-
duce at a rate of 340,000 BOPD in
1982-83.

**Crisis in Alcohol Based Industries in
West Bengal**

*38. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

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

(a) whether Government are aware
that the alcohol based industries in
West Bengal are in dire crisis because
of shortage of alcohol;

(b) if so, whether it is because of
the Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pra-
desh State Governments refusal to
supply alcohol allotted to the State by
the Central Molasses Board;

(c) if so, the details and what action
has been taken by the Union Govern-
ment thereon;

(d) whether the West Bengal State
Government has requested the Centre
to import some industrial alcohol in
view of the situation; and

(e) if so, the details and Govern-
ment's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is placed
on the table of the house.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In order to improve the avail-
ability of alcohol, it has been decided
to permit actual industrial users to
import alcohol either directly or in-
directly through their associations, on
the basis of licences to be issued on a
case to case basis.

Statement

The current alcohol year 1980-81
(December-November) is a difficult
year with supply of alcohol and
molasses falling considerably short of
the demand. The Central Molasses
Board had estimated that in the cur-
rent alcohol year 1980-81 the availa-
bility of alcohol is likely to be 4200

lakh litres only as against a likely demand of 5716.19 lakh litres. In the context of the overall shortage, the availability position in a deficit State like West Bengal with a large industrial demand for alcohol and very little alcohol production, is more acute than in other States. So far 219.5 lakh litres were allocated from the surplus States to West Bengal. Of this allocation, 165.5 lakh litres are from Uttar Pradesh, 28 lakh litres from Bihar and 26 lakh litres from Maharashtra. The Government of West Bengal had reported that upto the end of July, 165.44 lakh litres were received from surplus States, of this 4.20 lakh litres were received from Bihar and 161.24 lakh litres from Uttar Pradesh. In addition, 80,000 tonnes of Molasses were allocated to West Bengal of which 30,000 tonnes were from Maharashtra, 25,000 tonnes from Uttar Pradesh and 25,000 tonnes from Bihar. Maharashtra has agreed to release the entire quantity of molasses. The Government are persuading the traditionally surplus States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra to spare additional quantities of alcohol and molasses to deficit States like West Bengal.

Demand and Availability of Fertilizers

*39. SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:

SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL:

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

(a) what is the estimated production of fertilizers during the current year;

(b) what is the estimated import of fertilizers during the current year;

(c) what is the estimated demand of fertilizers during the current year; and

(d) how Government propose to meet the scarcity of fertilizer during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The estimated production of fertilizers during 1981-82 is 32 lakh tonnes of Nitrogen and 9.25 lakh tonnes of P_2O_5

(b) and (c). It would not be in the public interest to disclose the precise estimates of demand and import of fertilizers.

(d) Domestic production and imports between them are expected to meet the demand in full and no general scarcity is anticipated.

Purchase of Jack-Up Rigs

*40. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has placed orders for the purchase of two Jack-up Rigs; and

(b) if so, when was the order placed with what company and at what price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The ONGC are purchasing 3 more jack-up rigs for their offshore drilling operations.

(b) For 2 jack-up rigs the ONGC has placed an order on M/s. Robin Shipyard, Singapore on May 25, 1981 at a price of \$ 44.53 million per rig. Besides a letter of intent has also been issued recently by ONGC on M/s. Hitachi Zosen, Japan for the purchase of another jackup rig at a price of Jap. Yens 9.973 billion (equivalent to \$ 45.33 million at the exchange rate of \$ 1=Yens 220).