

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). The Haldia Fertilizer project of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation was mechanically completed in November, 1979, but the plant could not start production because of the inability of the West Bengal State Electricity Board to supply the required quantum of power. Government have approved the installation of a 20 MW gas turbine for the project. After the installation of the turbine, it would be possible to commission and run the fertilizer plant.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISHRA: In the reply, the hon. Minister has put all the blame on the West Bengal State Electricity Board. But I cannot understand why the problem of electricity was not taken into consideration earlier and why the installation of a gas turbine was not taken up earlier. I want to know from the hon. Minister what is the target date within which the gas turbine would be installed and when the Haldia unit of HFC would be commissioned.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): The negotiation with the West Bengal Government for the supply of power was started as early as 1976 and every time we were given the hope that we would get the power. But, unfortunately, they have not been able to give us power. The total power they are giving us now is in the vicinity of four megawatts. Recently, during my visit to Calcutta, I requested the Chief Minister to increase the quantum of power supplied, and he has agreed to give about eight to ten megawatts. Then, we have given the sanction for the gas turbine; it would take about seven months to come. By that time, our position would be happy and I think the West Bengal Government would also be in a position to give us the requisite power

supply which is now 39 megawatts only.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS

Proposal for Reversal of Crude Import Policy

*426. **SHRIMATI GURBRINDER KAUR BRAR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state whether a proposal for reversal of crude import policy for 1981-82 is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): No, Sir.

Improvement of Sick Drug Units in West Bengal

*429. **SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the need for effecting improvement of sick drug units run by State and Central Governments in West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the need for improvement of sick drug units in West Bengal managed either by Central or State Governments. There is improvement in production and sales due to financial support extended by the Government and Financial Institutions and the positioning of senior experienced personnel.

Use of Alcohol for Automobiles

*430. **SHRI CHATURBHUI:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a press report that Brazil has succeeded in substituting 20 per cent of petrol by Alcohol for use of

automobiles etc., with minor changes in their engines and thus it will be able to save \$ 3,600 million of oil imports in 1980 and that by 1990 it will hardly be dependent on petrol as a fuel;

(b) facts and Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether similar researches have been conducted in India;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d). The facts in this regard are given below:

Brazil has replaced 17 per cent of its consumption of petrol with alcohol. It has successfully introduced the use of a mixture of 20 per cent of alcohol with petrol in motor vehicles, which would save the country \$ 3,600 million of oil imports in 1980. The Brazilian Government also has authorised the production of 300,000 cars which will run on pure alcohol and conversion of another 80,000 from petrol to alcohol. The sugar industry in Brazil is being reactivated to produce 3000 million litres of alcohol and the number of distilleries are also being increased from 300 to 1100 to produce alcohol. The main source of alcohol in Brazil is sugarcane. However, it has also a programme to produce alcohol from Cassava and other fuel sources.

Extensive field trials conducted in India especially by the Research and Development Centre of Indian Oil Corporation jointly with the Indian Institute of Petroleum have shown that a mixture of petrol and 20 per cent alcohol can be used as fuel in Indian vehicle without any engine modifications. Similar studies on the use of alcohol as fuel have been carried out by other research institutes in India. Though the technical feasibility or blending alcohol with pet-

rol has been established, it is not possible to pursue the programme at present due to the inadequate availability of alcohol.

(e) Does not arise.

जैसलमेर (राजस्थान) में तेल और गैस की खोज

* 431. श्री बुद्धि चन्द्र जैन: क्या पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान के जैसलमेर जिले में खनिज तेल और गैस की खोज किये जाने के लिए इस समय विभाग द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त जिले में तेल और गैस की खोज किये जाने का काम तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस आयोग के बजाय आयल इण्डिया कम्पनी लि० को दिया जा रहा है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो विभाग द्वारा इस कार्य के लिए वर्ष 1980-81 के दौरान कितना खर्च किया जायेगा और इस के लिये कुल कितनी राशि की व्यवस्था की गई है;

(घ) तेल की खोज और खुदाई के कार्य के तेजी से कब तक प्रारम्भ हो जाने की सम्भावना है; और

(ङ) क्या इस कार्य के लिए जैसलमेर जिला मुख्यालय को प्रधान कार्यालय बनाया जायेगा ?

पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री प्रकाश चन्द्र सेठी): (क) (ख) एवं (घ): राजस्थान के जैसलमेर जिले में अन्वेषण