

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a)

and (b) According to the present estimates, import of around 6 million tonnes of petroleum products would be required in 1982-83 as against the preliminary estimate of about 4 million tonnes. But exports of Bombay High crude oil are expected to be about 2 million tonnes higher than estimated earlier.

The reasons for the increase in the import requirements are primarily on account of, *inter alia*, the industrial relations problem in the refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., in Bombay upto June, 1982, which led to a reduction in the crude throughput and also the shut down of its secondary processing units; these secondary processing units are now expected to commence operation in or around September, 1982. There is also some delay in the completion of the secondary processing units in the Mathura and Koyali refineries.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: The Minister in his reply stated that 6 million tonnes of petroleum products are estimated to be imported. May I know from the hon. Minister what was the quantity of petroleum products imported in the year 1981-82 and further I want to know from the hon. Minister the action taken by the Government for the timely production of the secondary processing units of Bharat Petroleum Corporation and whether these secondary units will be ready for production by the month of September 1982?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Sir, his question has been drowned in what Mr. Daga has been talking. But I understood the question as, what was the import between 1981-1982 so far as crude oil was concerned.

In 1981-1982, the provisional estimation of import was 15.360 million tonnes of crude oil and 4.974 million tonnes of petroleum products. This was the import in so far as petroleum pro-

ducts and crude oil was concerned. I could not hear his second part of the question, I am sorry.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: The second part of my question is: whether the secondary processing units will be ready for production around the month of September, 1982 as stated in the reply.

MR SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Upgradation of Offshore Technology

*429. **SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the O.N.G.C. Officials had visited leading offshore equipment yards in an effort to upgrade the offshore technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any deal with a foreign country in this regard had been approved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

The ONGC officers have visited offshore equipment fabrication yards and workshops that are manufacturing offshore equipment ordered by the ONGC and also when found necessary, these that have offered to manufacture such equipment, in order to determine their capability. During such visits the ONGC officers take the opportunity of reviewing

new techniques, new designs and improvements under introduction.

The ONGC technologists participate in various international conferences, seminars and training courses and these assist in improving their technological knowledge.

The ONGC has also set up a small group of technologists to examine the merits of setting up a specialised laboratory and research facilities in offshore technology and to define the facilities required, location, inter-relationship with institutes of Technology and Universities.

The efforts of the ONGC in this are supported by Engineers India Ltd. which has a substantial Ocean Engineering Division that design a variety of offshore structures for the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The Division has with the assistance of various scientific groups in Institutes of Technology, undertaken research in a number of aspects of the design of offshore structures so as to enhance its capability in this field in order to meet the likely future requirements of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission.

Flaring Off of Natural Gas at Bombay High

*431. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

SHRI SURAJ BHAN:

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

(a) whether natural gas worth about Rs. 10 lakhs is flared off each day at Bombay High in spite of the fact that working group after working group has been appointed to help Government to arrive at a decision as to how to utilise the gas in Bombay and nearby areas and that their final report even after five years, is yet to be received and acted upon;

(b) *ad hoc* arrangements made for the utilisation of natural gas;

(c) since which date the gas is being flared off and the estimated loss up-to-date;

(d) whether in some areas of Bombay City there exists gas pipeline connections; and

(c) if so, the reason, why no use has been made of these pipelines for distribution of flared off gas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) It is associated gas which has had to be flared. No free gas has been flared at all.

Associated gas is produced along with crude oil. It takes time to use such gas which is best utilised in the manufacture of fertilizers, petrochemicals etc., since a wide variety of facilities involving large investments, have to be erected for this purpose. Moreover at the start of oil production, it is not possible to accurately assess how much associated natural gas will in fact be produced; this assessment itself requires that oil wells be on production for some time. Since the production of crude oil, which in Bombay High is almost ten times the amount of associated gas produced is of very high priority, it could not be deferred though it was recognised that the full utilisation of associated natural gas as it would be produced, would not be possible to arrange within the time-phasing set for rapidly increasing the production of crude oil in the early years. Nevertheless advance action was taken to see how best to utilise the associated natural gas that was expected to be produced as a consequence of the rapid production of crude oil. The Government of India set up a Working Group in 1977 and its recommendations on how to utilise associated natural gas were accepted. This Working Group recommended that about 0.83 million cubic metres per day natural gas should be made available for supply to domestic consumers and textile mills in Bombay City. In 1978 the Government of India asked the Government of Maharashtra to work out the modalities of distributing this quantity of natural gas in the Bombay City; the Government of Maharashtra set up a Study Group but the Study Group has not been able to submit a final report. In view of this the Ministry of Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers had a number of meetings with the members of the Study Group and