

representatives of the Maharashtra Government to see if it could assist it in finding solutions to the problems which it had not been able to overcome. These discussions were followed up in meetings held by the Minister of Petroleum with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. As a result an approach of how to distribute gas to consumers in Bombay city has been formulated and a decision on this is expected to be taken shortly.

The quantity of associated natural gas flared has declined rapidly by creating a number of outlets for it even though the new fertilizer plant in Thal Vaishet is not yet ready and the difficulties experienced by the Maharashtra Government in implementing a scheme for the distribution of natural gas in the Bombay City. While all the associated natural gas had to be flared until the pipeline to transport the gas was completed in July 1978. Thereafter supply of associated natural gas commenced to the fertilizer plants of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers in Trombay and to the Tata Electric Company. The quantity of associated natural gas increased rapidly connected with the rapid increase in the production of crude oil. Thus even though the utilisation of gas increased from 0.8 million cubic metres per day at the end of 1978|79 to 2 million cubic metres per day in 1981|82. The quantity of associated natural gas that had to be flared in 1981|82 was 1.8 million cubic metres per day. However, from the end of July 1982 with the commissioning of the gas turbines of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board last month there is little or no flaring taking place now.

The production of associated natural gas will increase further in the coming months with the commissioning of a further offshore process platform in the Bombay High field but outlets have been created in advance so that this increased availability is also expected to be properly utilised.

To ensure the optimum utilisation of natural gas in the future which requires the erection of pipelines and a wide variety of facilities and infrastructure, in March 1982 the Ministry appointed a Task Force comprising representative of the Oil & Natural Gas Commission Engineers India Ltd., Oil

Coordination Committee and the Department of Petroleum, The Task Force has already submitted its first report on the utilisation of offshore natural gas year by year for the next twenty years: adequate outlets have been identified so that even if there is some delay in offtake by some consumers, others will be able to fully absorb the gas that might become available.

(b) LPG (cooking gas) is being extracted from the associated natural gas. The balance associated natural gas is being supplied to Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd., Tata Electric Company and the Maharashtra State Electricity Board.

Additional outlets that have been created are the refineries in Bombay and an ammonia-cum-nitric acid plant that is due to be commissioned very shortly.

(c) Associated natural gas has had to be flared from the commencement of production of crude oil in 1976; till June 30, 1982 the total quantity flared is 1958.711 MMM<sup>3</sup>. Putting a value on this gas will not be appropriate since it could neither be stored nor fully utilised during this period.

(d) and (e) The Bombay Gas Company has a coal gas pipeline supply network of about 550 kilometres in an area in the Bombay City. These coal pipelines are not suitable for the distribution of natural gas without extensive modifications requiring large investment. Studies on what modifications will have to be made and the investments on these are nearing completion.

#### Supply of Kerosene|Diesel to Small Consumers

\*432. SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria and controls are exercised by Government to ensure supply of kerosene and diesel to small consumers (district-wise), commensurate with population and needs;

(b) what are the guidelines if any for fixing the quota for kerosene and diesel to various States;

(c) whether similar guidelines are followed for district-wise allocation; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The allocations of both kerosene and diesel to the States|Union Territories are made by the Department of Petroleum. In the case of High Speed diesel Oil, the monthly State-wise allocations are being made after allowing a 15 per cent growth over the actual sales made in the respective States|Union Territories in the corresponding months of the previous year. These allocations are, however, nominal since there is no restriction on the sale of diesel and the demand is being met in full by the oil companies.

In the case of kerosene, currently, allocations to the States and Union Territories are being made for blocks of 4 months each. Both for the summer months (March-June) and monsoon months (July-October), the monthly kerosene allocation are based on a 5 per cent growth over the average monthly sale in the corresponding 4 months of the previous year, while for the winter months (Nov.-Feb.) the allocations are based on a 5 per cent growth over the highest allocation|sale in any one of the corresponding 4 months of the previous year. *Adhoc* increases in kerosene allocations are also some times made, based on various factors such as occurrence of natural calamities, festival etc.

(c) and (d) Only the overall allocations of kerosene and diesel to the States and Union Territories are made by the Department of Petroleum. The splitting up of such allocations as between the various Region/Districts within a State is being done by the State Government themselves. The State Governments have been advised to ensure the equitable distribution of these products within the State.

#### Losses in Film Development Corporation

\*437. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:  
SHRI R. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Film Development Corporation has had to write off about fifty lakhs of rupees as bad debts and is making provision of another Rs. 15 lakhs as doubtful debts in the first year of its working;

(b) if so, the reasons for such heavy losses; and

(c) the remedial measures being adopted to contain these debts?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Against a profit of Rs. 53.72 lakhs during the year 1980-81, the National Film Development Corporation has written off Rs. 49.14 lakhs as bad debts and shown Rs. 4.50 lakhs as doubtful debts. These bad and doubtful debts pertained to the erstwhile Film Finance Corporation|Indian Motion Picture Export Corporation and NDFC has made these adjustments for accounting purposes. The Corporation continues to take the steps to recover the amounts from the parties concerned.

The erstwhile FFC as also NFDC have to play a promotional and developmental role for encouraging the growth of good cinema. While discharging this responsibility it becomes necessary to take calculated risks by way of providing loans for films which may not be commercially successful.

(c) The financial position of the Corporation is being improved by bringing about stricter financial discipline, more thorough scrutiny of applications for financial loans for production of films, increased exports of Indian films, expansion of distribution and exhibition network for Indian and imported films and through the execution of projects like 16mm centre, sub-titling unit and Video transfer unit which are likely to yield revenues.

#### Transmission Programme Jointly Undertaken by NTPC, Gujarat and Maharashtra

\*440. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large transmission programme is going to be jointly undertaken by National Thermal