

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The ONGC has entered into a contract with Messrs Dreagerwerk Aktian Gasallachaft of West Germany on 23-12-1981 for the supply and installation of saturation diving system (Deep Sea Diving Equipment) for the ONGC drilling vessel 'Samudra Prabhat' under fabrication in West Germany.

(b) The total price of the contract for the diving equipment including installation, testing and classification is DM 58,23,372 equivalent to about Rs. 2.33 crores. The delivery of the complete diving equipment including installation testing and classification under this contract shall be completed by 30th April, 1982 subject to necessary facilities being provided in time at the shipyard where the drillship is under fabrication.

(c) As per present plans the drillship will be used for exploratory drilling off the West Coast including the Deep Continental Shelf, Bassein and Ratnagiri areas. Further areas of deployment will depend upon the exploration programme as may be decided from time to time in the context of the geological and geophysical data that become available progressively.

**Allotment of petrol pumps and cooking gas agencies to SC/ST**

\*313. SHRI R. N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of petrol pumps and cooking gas agencies allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and whether this percentage is complete; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) 25 per cent of all dealerships/distributors are specifically reserved for persons belonging to Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes. Since the introduction of the reservation policy, the specified quota is being achieved

(b) The question does not arise.

**Commissioning of super thermal plants**

\*318. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Commissioning of STPs—CEA fears delay. NTPC hopeful" in the 'Economic Times' dated 19 Feb. 1982;

(b) whether there is a serious difference of opinion between the Central Electricity Authority and the National Thermal Power Corporation over the commissioning dates of the three super thermal stations currently under construction;

(c) whether the delay in the commissioning will occur because of delay in the ordering of equipment and the differences between NTPC and BHEL over the guarantee terms;

(d) whether because of the problems of ordering of equipment, the Corporation has utilised only Rs. 160 crores out of the allocation of Rs. 244 crores; and

(e) if so, the steps Government have taken propose so that the whole allocation is fully utilised in time?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI GHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There have been some differences in the assessment of CEA and

NTPC on the likely dates of commissioning of some of the units of the super thermal power stations being set up by NTPC. Such differences in assessment are not unusual in the monitoring of long gestation projects. All possible efforts are being made to ensure the earliest possible completion of the super thermal power stations being set up by NTPC and the first unit of 200 MW at the Singrauli Super Thermal Station has been synchronised in February, 1982 according to the original schedule.

(c) The orders for all the 200 MW generating units at the super thermal stations of NTPC are already under execution. There has, however, been some delay in placing orders for the 500 MW units for Singrauli and Korba.

Being among the first units of this kind, certain terms including performance guarantee, had to be settled.

Orders in respect of Singrauli have since been placed.

(d) The budgetary provision made for NTPC during the current financial year is expected to be fully utilised.

(e) The question does not arise.

#### Manufacturing of modern electronic exchanges in Palghat

\*319. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have changed their earlier proposal to manufacture modern electronic exchanges in the Indian Telephone Industries at Palghat, Kerala;

(b) if so the reasons for changing the proposal;

(c) whether Government propose reconsidering their decision in this matter; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

#### THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### पालना लिग्नाइट विद्युत् परियोजना की प्रगति

\*320 श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान में पालना लिग्नाइट विद्युत् परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में अब तक क्या प्रगति हुई है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उक्त विद्युत् परियोजना के सम्बन्ध में किसी दूसरे देश के साथ करार हुआ है और यदि हां, तो उस देश का नाम क्या है और करार की शर्तें क्या हैं तथा क्या तत्सम्बन्धी ब्यौरा सभा पटल पर रखा जाएगा ; और

(ग) इस परियोजना पर कार्य कब शुरू होगा तथा यह बिजली घर कब काम करना शुरू कर देगा ?

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री ए. बी. ए. गनी खान चौधरी) : (क) से (ग) : बीकानेर जिले में पालना में लिग्नाइट पर आधारित, 60-60 मेगावाट के दो यूनिटों वाले ताप विद्युत् केन्द्र की प्रतिष्ठापना करने के लिए एक स्कीम का तकनीकी-आर्थिक तौर पर मूल्यांकन कर लिया गया है और इस पर निवेश निर्णय की प्रतीक्षा है। परियोजना पर 67.38 करोड़ रुपये को लागत आने का अनुमान है। इस परियोजना को तकनीकी-आर्थिक स्वीकृति देते हुए केन्द्रीय विद्युत् प्राधिकरण ने पालना विद्युत् परियोजना तथा पालना खनन परियोजना को एक साथ ही स्वीकृति दिये जाने की सिफोरिश की है ताकि निश्चित