

(b) The ONGC had drilled five exploratory wells in the Godavari offshore area during the period from December 1979 to December 1980. Oil and gas flowed on production testing in the first well namely G-1-1 drilled in the Godavari offshore area but drilling in the other offshore wells did not prove successful due to several technical problems encountered in drilling arising from soil conditions, ocean currents etc. in the area.

(c) A number of locations for further drilling in the area have been identified. Of these locations, one site named G-S-3-1 has been drilled during the current year. Drilling at the second location named G-13-1 is in progress. Two more wells are proposed to be drilled in the current year whose exact site will be determined taking into consideration the results of the wells drilled till then.

(d) The results achieved so far are encouraging. A good deal of further seismic work and drilling has still to be carried out before an assessment can be made of the actual potential of the area.

Production and Demand of Vitamin B1

*360. SHRI DHARAM DASS SHASTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the expected demand of Vitamin B1 for the year 1982-83 ;

(b) what is the indigenous production of Vitamin B1 from basic stage ;

(c) how Government propose to fill the gap between indigenous production and estimated demand ; and

(d) if Vitamin B1 is to be imported, the reasons for not allowing

licensed small scale units to manufacture Vitamin B1 from Thio Thiamine which may be imported at least to the extent of filling up the gap and thereby saving in foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIVSHANKAR):

(a) and (b). According to figures available with the Government, the total availability of Vitamin B1 in the country in 1981-82 was nearly 85 tonnes. On this basis, it is estimated, taking into account the requirements of growth on account of higher production—the demand this year would be in the neighbourhood of 120 tonnes. The indigenous production of Vitamin B1 by M/s Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. from basic stages is expected to be 83 tonnes.

(c) The anticipated shortfall between the demand and the indigenous production is expected to be met through canalised imports.

(d) The manufacture of Vitamin B1 is reserved for Public Sector and therefore, the import of Thiothiamine which is a penultimate intermediate for the production of this drug is, banned.

Loss incurred by Eastern Coalfields due to Power Shortage

*361. SHRI AJIT BAG : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Eastern Coalfields Limited has been heavily losing on its daily production of coal due to power shortage ;

(b) if so, whether the coalfields are considering to have their own power generation ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and