

other purposes also so that steel, cement and other important materials could be used.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: When I replied to part (b) of the question, it means that the answer flows from the answer given to part (a) of his question.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: It has nothing to do with the Committee. I wanted to know what the details are.

MR. SPEAKER: He brought about the marriage!

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Unless the Committee makes the suggestions in their reports, it is not possible for us to take concrete steps. That is why the answer to part (b) of his question was "does not arise". I do take note of what my hon. friend has observed with reference to the use of plastics in the foreign countries. After the report of this Committee is made available, Government would take necessary action.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: As a producer and also a seller of plastics, whether the Minister is aware...

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: It is news to me.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Are you not a seller also?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I thought that you were a seller. (*Interruptions*).

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I want to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that many international studies have shown that for things like irrigation water channels and even supply of water through underground channels in arid areas, plastics have a tremendous use. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Committee is treating this whole matter lightly. They have

met only twice according to the dates given by the Minister. I would like to know whether the matter would get expedited. Now that the Minister has been changed, will he also change the composition of the Committee so that the new Committee may be more purposeful?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Don't change the Keshavanad Bharati case:

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I am not in a position to do that. I am a lawyer and by nature I go by precedents. Therefore, whatever has been done by my predecessor I follow it. Now, coming to the question raised by Dr. Swamy, I may point out that the Committee has not taken it lightly. As I said, the Committee is concerned, it met twice, but it does not mean that the Committee is not functioning. They have requested the various States to form their own Committees for the purpose of doing some initial work. In fact, 12 States have already appointed their own Committee. They are going deeper into this question. So far as the Chairman himself is concerned, he has also been visiting various places. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the Committee is not active. The Committee's full-fledged meetings have taken place only twice. That is what I wanted to convey in the initial answer given by me.

Wastage of Bombay High Gas

*776. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of usable gas of Bombay High are being wasted due to lack of infrastructure;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity wasted per day and its value, if used;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for supply of petro-gas of

Bombay High through pipelines to Bombay city for domestic use; and

(d) if so, what are the pre-conditions and other infrastructural requirements necessary according to the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) At the initial stage of an oil field's development, flaring of associated gas along with the production of oil is a normal feature. This is true with Bombay High oil field also.

(b) The average quantity of gas flared per day during 1981-82 was 1.8 MMM3 valued at Rs. 9.9 lakhs.

(c) and (d). The Working Group set up in 1977 for studying the utilisation of off shore gas in Maharashtra had *inter-alia* recommended that the Government of Maharashtra should study the various issues connected with the proposal for the supply of off shore gas through a net work of pipelines to domestic consumers as well as to the 45 textile mills listed in the Group's report including the question of textile mills using a mixture of LSHS and fuel oil instead of gas for the purpose of reducing the level of pollution. The Maharashtra Government accordingly appointed a Study Group in September 1978 to undertake the required study. The final report of the Study Group has not yet been received inspite of numerous requests by the Central Government. Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of the report.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: From the statement, it is evident that there was since past and even today a colossal loss of almost three crores of rupees per month by flaring of usable gas and it could have been stopped by the ONGC and the Bombay High authorities if they had Planned properly at the initial stages and thought of supplying this natural gas

for domestic use as well as to the industrial sector through pipelines not only in Bombay, New Bombay, but also in Gujarat and Maharashtra. I am confused because the Central Government has passed on the buck to the Maharashtra Government. My first supplementary is: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a reply given by the Minister of Maharashtra Government in the Maharashtra Assembly? According to that reply, quote "the Maharashtra Government was persuading the Centre for supply petroleum gas through pipeline from Bombay High to the city for domestic use. Further, a lot of gas was being wasted due to lack of infrastructure for its full utilization—this is what Shri S. N. Desai admitted while replying to a question by Mr. Vinod Gupta and Shri Madhu Deolekar, both BJP."

Will the Minister tell us the exact position? What do you envisage with regard to the supply of natural gas to Bombay and New Bombay through a pipeline?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: I agree with the hon. Member that it is a colossal loss, so far as the country is concerned, but it has to happen in the circumstances of the particular facts of this case. In any country at the initial stage when the oilfield development has taken place, the gas has been burnt because it was not possible having regard to the lack a resources to have the requisite fertilizer plants, petro-chemical plants etc. It does take a little time for making all these arrangements and this is based on the resources that the country has and the various environmental factors.

My friend has asked the question about the pipeline for the domestic usage of gas in Bombay. In fact, this is a slightly different issue and I am sure, my friend would appreciate it. In so far as the Working Group is concerned, it was set up in 1977 and on

their advice as I said, the Maharashtra Government itself appointed a Study Group, which is going into the details of it, and I may assure the House that the moment some action is taken by this Group and they put forth the report, action would certainly be taken on that basis. In fact, we have been reminding the State Government so that the Study Group may complete its report at an early date for the purpose of necessary action at our end.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: I am very glad to read the newspaper report recently that the Bombay High gas will be supplied to Gujarat through pipeline. It is in the fitness of things. Government is also trying to supply gas from Bombay High to Madhya Pradesh, which must be expedited.

Is the Government aware that in Bombay there is an old Bombay Gas Company, a big pollutant, in the heart of the city?

It is in Lal Bagh Parel, against which the ecologists and the naturalists have always complained to the Government. It has a complete infrastructure of pipeline gas supply which is coal-based and is causing pollution. Will the Government consider seriously the nationalisation of the Bombay Gas Company so that this infrastructure can be immediately used?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: To be frank, I have not given my mind to this aspect. I take note of what the hon. friend says. I will certainly consider this aspect. If it is feasible, I will certainly do it. At the moment I am not in a position to answer this question.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR: Sir, really it is a matter of great concern that Rs. 10 lakh worth of gas is being wasted every day. From the reply it appears that they are waiting for

the report of the Committee which was formed in 1978; and that Committee too is of the State Government of Maharashtra. I don't know that action has the Central Government taken in this respect. Have they themselves tried to find out any way to make proper use of the gas which is being wasted?

Secondly, we are very short of energy. Forests are being denuded because we don't have firewood and there is great shortage of LPG throughout the country. So, what specific action does Government want to take to ease the energy shortage? I cannot understand how much time the Government thinks is necessary? Of course this happens when new plants come into being. So, I want to know how much time actually the Government thinks is necessary to normalise the situation because even after four or five years, the gas is not being used?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR: Sir, as I said, I am myself concerned about this burning of the gas. In fact I am concerned about this part of it.

Now, so far as the usage of this gas is concerned, one aspect, which I have already said, is that the working group is going into this question. The other aspect of it is, as the Hon. Members are aware, that e.g. in Hazira and Talvaishet, we have already decided to set up four gas based fertilizer plants. Like-wise, we are also contemplating with reference to petrochemicals. Therefore, it is a phased manner in which this development is going to take place. And this phased manner is dependent upon the resources that we have because it should be equitable distribution of our resources. So, sometimes priority is given to a particular concept and on another occasion priority is given to a different concept altogether. The Government is aware that the petro-chemical complex and also the gas-based fertilizer plants must have priority. We

are doing our best at our end within the limited resources. Therefore, it is a question of amalgam of the efforts that this study group is making and also independently what the Central Government is doing so that in the ultimate analysis we hope to arrest this wastage of gas, which is now taking place.

Akashvani Appu Sports Club

†778. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Radio proposes to organise Akashvani Appu Sports Club to generate interest in appreciation of various sports among its listeners; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appu Sports Clubs are voluntary and people's clubs. The idea is that such clubs which will be registered by the concerned AIR Stations on a minimum strength of 10 members per club will be commemorative of the Asian Games; these clubs will generate interest and appreciation for various sports among the listeners and also encourage indigenous and traditional sports. They are expected to start functioning from May, 1982.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: There is very good publicity done for Asian Games. I want to know how many Clubs have been formed so far, and whether any assistance or any financial help is being given by Government, or at least any guidance by their officers to constitute such Clubs. How many club have come about so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): The decision was taken very recently. We have given them time to form the clubs upto May.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हल्दर जी आप से जवान स्पॉटमैन हैं।

SHRI VASANT SATHE: There is no scheme of giving any financial assistance or anything. These are voluntary people's clubs. AIR only wants to encourage a sort of movement in the country in the form of sports clubs—of those who listen to AIR or watch television. There are television clubs. We want to create a sports atmosphere in the country. AIR has the largest reach in the whole country for spreading sports spirit, taking the help of the Asian Games. We are in close cooperation with the Asian Games people. We want to do our maximum to encourage the sports spirit.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इनका भी क्लब बनाइये और हमारा भी।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, स्पोर्ट की स्प्रिट जैसी की मंत्री महोदय बताने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं, उस से मुझे भी स्पोर्ट खोलने का इरादा हो रहा है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपके जिस्म से कुछ लगता है।

श्री एम० राम गोपाल रेड्डी : मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे एज के ग्रुप के व्यक्तियों के लिए क्या करने वाले हैं?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बूटा सिंह भी कर रहे हैं, आगे बढ़ रहे हैं।