

(b) whether Government are thinking of having a Sulphur Plant near Jodhpur in Nagaur as lignite is also available near it in Palana and Bikaner and Chloride in Didwara; and

(c) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal before Government for setting up a fertilizer plant in Nagaur?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) Government are aware of large deposits of gypsum in Rajasthan.

(b) No, Sir. However, certain suggestions have been received in this regard. The possibilities of economic utilisation of gypsum alongwith lignite and salt as a source of sulphur are at present under experimentation and investigation by the Fertilizer Corporation of India.

(c) Does not arise.

Power shortage in Tamil Nadu

*111. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN:
SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power famine has greatly hit small scale units in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the power famine threatens to become almost permanent feature of Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to help the State in this regard during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4288/73].

Amendment of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955

*112. SHRI P. VENKATASUB-
BAIAH:

SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand to reduce the period to allow divorce under Section 13(IA) of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 from two years to six months because of the changed social environment;

(b) whether there has also been a demand to reduce the waiting period for re-marriage from one year to three months after divorce under Section 15 of the said Act; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The suggestions are being examined alongwith other proposals for amending the law.

Laying of pipeline to move petroleum products

*113 SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO:
SHRI RAMSHEKHAR
PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are considering a proposal to construct pipelines to move petroleum products; and

(b) if so, whether this proposal will help in relieving the additional burden on their haulage capacity anticipated during the Fifth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal to construct a product pipe line from Trombay to Pune for movement of petroleum products is under consideration in consultation with the Planning Commission.

Chemical plants lying incomplete

*114. SHRI SAT PAL KAPUR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of chemical plants which are still lying incomplete at present both in private and public sectors;

(b) the time for which they are lying incomplete and the places of their location; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House [*Placed in Library: See No: LT-4289/73*] in respect of chemical plants in the public and private sectors under the control of Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals. Information in respect of private sector chemical plants is not complete. It is being collected. There are chemical plants under the administrative control of other Ministries of the Government of India. Requisite particulars of their plants are also being obtained. Another statement will be laid on the Table of the House later.

Request to U.N. for assisting the developing countries in oil exploration and technology

*115. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO:

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

(a) whether the Indian delegate while participating in the U.N. Seminar on Petroleum Refining in Developing Countries recently urged upon the United Nations to step in with an organised effort to assist the developing countries to maximise their resources by intensive exploration and by arranging transfer of modern technology; and

(b) if so, the consensus at the Seminar and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The consensus at the Seminar was that the UN may be urged to provide assistance and guidance to developing countries in respect of:—

- (i) Technical matters and training of personnel including planning energy development programmes particularly those based on Oil and Natural Gas;
- (ii) Preparation of proposals for grant of financial assistance in the Oil, Natural Gas and other related sectors;
- (iii) Conducting intensive exploration for oil and gas;
- (iv) Establishment of Refineries;
- (iv) Drafting of agreements, legal matters, project evaluation and related activities for the development of petroleum sector;