

(b) The studies have been published in the proceedings of the Committee on Science and Technology Seminar on pollution and Human Environment held at the Bhabha Atomic Research centre during August, 1970. A copy of the proceedings will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

(c) To tackle the problem of water pollution in the country, Government has already introduced a bill called the prevention of water pollution Bill, 1969 in the Rajya Sabha.

Dispute between oil and Natural Gas Commission and Gujarat State Over Gas Price

* 167. SHRI D. K. PANDA :
SHRI R. KADANAPALLI :

Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) The extent of price increase proposed for gas from the 1st April, 1971 by Oil and Natural Gas Commission for Gas users in Gujarat state;

(b) whether the Commission has also proposed to charge an additional premium of Rs. 26 per 1000 cubic metres towards recovery of underpayment in the past five years;

(c) whether the Gujarat Government and private consumers in the state have opposed to the proposal; and

(d) if so, the efforts made by Government to bring about an amicable settlement between O. N. G. C. and gas consumers in Gujarat on this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (PETROLEUM AUR RASAYAN MANTRI) (SHRI P. C. SETH):

(a) and (b). As producer and seller of the gas it is the Oil and Natural Gas Commission that determine the price. The Commission have proposed an increase in the price of Ankleshwar and cambay gas with effect from 1.4.1971. This revision has been worked out by them on the basis of the

formula laid down in the Arbitration award of Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao. It is this award that has governed the Price for the five year period ending 31. 3. 1971. The Award provided for the revision of the price for the next period of five years effective from 1. 4. 1971. According to ONGC's computation, the well-head price will increase from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 80/- per 1000 cubic metres of gas and to this would be added a premium of Rs. 26/- to recoup the under-recoveries on well head price for the past supplies bringing the revised well-head price to Rs. 106 per 1,000 cubic metres. In addition there will be charges on account of royalty and sales tax and on account of transportation where also a premium will be added to recoup past under-recoveries and this will differ from consumer to consumer.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have taken the view that it would be best if this question is settled in discussion between the ONGC and the consumers. They have been keeping themselves informed of the position and have every hope that a settlement between the seller and the buyers would be reached.

Work in Progress on American-British Naval Base in Indian Ocean

* 168. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE :
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take any steps to stop the militarization of the Indian Ocean ;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the work on the American-British naval base at Deigo Garcia has already been started ; and

(d) how Government propose to put its disapproval into action ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (VIDESH MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) :
(a) and (b). The Government have noted