

CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Durgapur Project for production of Nitrogen has started working ; and

(b) if so, annual production capacity thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). The commissioning of the Durgapur Fertilizer Plant is in progress. The installed capacity of the plant is as follows

Ammonia	1,98,000 tonnes/Yr.	
Urea	3,05,000	-do-
Niteogrn	1,51,000	-do-

Setting up of a Public Sector Undertaking for off-shore and deep-shore Drilling

*294. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering the question of setting up a public sector undertaking for the offshore and deep-shore drilling ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Lubricating Oils

*295. SHRI RAJA KULKARNI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government had permitted the Oil Companies to raise the price of lubricating oil ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to the increases in Excise and Customs duties with effect from 29.5.1971.

Financial Assistance to West Bengal and Orissa for Cyclone victims.

*296. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :
SHRI R. P. DAS :
SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial aid given to the Governments of Orissa and West Bengal to meet the abnormal situation created because of the cyclone in those States ; and

(b) whether any team has been sent by the Central Government to assess the loss of lives and properties in these two States ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). A Central team has visited Orissa from the 16th to the 18th November, 1971 to make an on-the-spot assessment of the requirement of funds for various relief measures, for purposes of Central assistance. Pending the recommendations of the team, Central assistance amounting to Rs. 5 crores, including short term loan of Rs. 3 crores for supply of agricultural inputs, was advanced to the State Government. A further advance of Rs. 2 crores has been released on the 25th November, 1971. Further assistance will be given in the light of the progress of expenditure subject to the recommendations of the Central team are awaited.

No report or request for financial assistance has so far been received from the Government of West Bengal regarding cyclone relief measures.

Emergency Landing of Air India Boeing 707 Aircraft at Hongkong

*297. SHRI DASARATHA DEB : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for the Emergency landing of Air India Boeing 707 at Hongkong on the 24th October, 1971 ;

(b) the reaction of Government thereon ?