

Oil Drilling by American Companies in Kutch

*539. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the American companies have started oil drilling in the Kutch region in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the progress thereof;

(c) whether any contract between the Indian Government and American companies was signed for the purpose; and

(d) if so, what are the terms and conditions of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (d). A contract was awarded on May 24, 1974 to Reading and Bate Group of USA for oil exploration of the continental shelf in the Kutch basin. The main features of this contract, *inter alia*, were given in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1238 answered on June 21, 1977.

The contractor conducted reconnaissance seismic survey/detailed seismic surveys during October, 1974—May, 1975 and commenced drilling of a well in October, 1975. The well was drilled to a depth of 4500 mts. But had to be abandoned as a dry well in January, 1976. Having fulfilled the obligations for Phase I of the contract, comprising three years ending 31-7-1977 and not having discovered hydrocarbons in this basin, the contractor exercised the option for termination of the contract effective from 1-8-1977.

Results of the surveys and drilling carried out by the Contractor in Kutch are being evaluated by the ONGC on which would depend the possibility of further oil exploration in the basin.

Nationalisation of foreign Firms and abolition of brand names of selected Drugs.

*540. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalisation of foreign firms and abolition of brand names of selected drugs were recommended by the Hathi Committee; and

(b) by what time these will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). The Committee on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Industry in their report recommended by a majority view that the multi-national firms should be taken over forthwith. It also recommended that, having regard to the present stage of development of the drugs industry, for the purpose of FERA guidelines this industry should not be eligible for a preferential treatment for items specified in Appendix-I to the Industrial Licensing Policy, 1973. Foreign undertakings operating in this country should be directed to bring down their equity to 40% forthwith and further reduce it progressively to 26%. In regard to abolition of brand names, the Committee have recommended that brand names should be abolished in a phased manner and that a beginning should be made for a change-over to generic names starting with the 13 drugs identified by the Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration and a final decision is likely to be taken soon.

Use of Placentas and Placental Blood in Manufacturing of certain Medicines

*541. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether human placentas and placental blood are being used for the indigenous manufacture of certain medicines for treatment of jaundice, measles, mumps etc.;

(b) whether any research has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) whether any drugs have since been patented and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir, for the manufacture of Human Gamma Globulin.

(b) The manufacture of Human Gamma Globulin from Human Placenta and Placental Blood has been well established and no research is required to be conducted on this particular aspect.

(c) Messrs Curewell (India) Limited, who are the major producers of Human Gamma Globulin, have not taken out any patent for this so far. As to whether any other company have obtained patent, is being ascertained.