

Companies with 51 per cent Capital invested by Govt. Public Financial Institution

*302. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private Limited Companies in the Country in which investment towards capital by Government and public financial institutions works out to be more than 51 per cent; and

(b) the extent to which Government have a say in the management of those companies?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) Of the 38,837 private limited companies at work in the country as on 31-3-1977, 428 were Government companies, i.e. companies in which the Central Government and/or State Government(s) held 51 per cent or more of the paid-up share capital. No public financial institution held any share capital in any of these 428 companies. As regards the remaining 38409 private limited companies, the requisite information is not readily available.

(b) The management of the 428 private limited Government companies referred to in part (a) is looked after by the concerned administrative Ministry at the Central and/or State Government level.

Natural Gas in Assam

*303. SHRI PURNA SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that million cubics of natural gas is being burnt up all around Naharkatiya, Duliajan, Moran and elsewhere in Assam besides in the refineries to which crude oil is drained in, while the consumers are crying hoarse all over the country for more industrial fuel and LPG cooking gas;

(b) whether Government propose to hold this burnt up gas and channelise it for the purpose of conversion to fuel for industries and domestic cooking; and

(c) what steps Government are going to take to obtain the technical know-how in order to save and utilise this natural gas everywhere in the country, particularly at the tips of wells in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):

(a) and (b). Certain quantities of associated natural gas produced from the oil-fields of Oil India Limited in Assam are flared mainly because of shortfall in lifting by consumers in relation to off-take earlier indicated by them. The off-take of consumers is expected to improve. The Company has also planned to set up a plant for extraction of L.P.G. and condensate from this gas. A scheme for expansion of Namrup Fertilizers plant which uses gas as feedstock, is also under consideration.

The natural gas produced by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Assam except for certain quantities supplied to tea estates is presently being flared. ONGC has already committed supply of 0.23 million cubic metres per day of gas to the Assam State Electricity Board which is expected to start consuming this gas in 1978-79. A part of gas needed for expansion of Namrup Fertilizer Plant will be supplied by ONGC.

Certain amount of flaring of gas in refineries is unavoidable on account of technological reasons and safety, and for this purpose the flare has to be maintained whenever the refinery is in operation. The flaring is kept to the minimum in all refineries.

(c) Government attach the highest priority to the utilisation of gas as feedstock for the manufacture of fertilizer for which Technical know-how is available in the country.