

developed for supplying irrigation waters as required through construction of tubewells and open wells.

**Bank Accounts Maintained by Ex-Princes
Abroad**

*588. SHRI YAJNA DATT SHARMA :
SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3245 on the 11th March, 1969 and state:

(a) whether the information regarding the total amount deposited in the foreign banks as on the 31st March, 1968 and 31st December, 1968 by 38 ex-princes and 11 members of the princely families has since been collected; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Only 21 of the concerned parties have furnished the information so far. The total amount held in their accounts as on 31st December, 1968 stood at Rs. 62.2 lakhs. Efforts are being made to collect information from others also.

**Losses in the Oil and Natural Gas
Commission**

*589. SHRI S. S. KOTHARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission entered into a defective agreement whereby the Commission incurred heavy losses;

(b) if so, whether Government have enquired into the matter; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS, AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) With regard to one drilling contract entered into by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission with SNAM S.p.A. of Italy for drilling in Uttar Pradesh, Audit had pointed out that the ONGC had to incur extra avoidable expenditure of Rs. 8.46 lakhs on account of, among other things, faulty wording of one the provisions of the contract. The Commission has not accepted that there had been any loss on account of the alleged defective wording of the contract.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It has been found that the Commission cannot be said to have incurred any avoidable expenditure as suggested by Audit on account of the alleged defective wording of the contract.

Methanol Plant at Trombay Unit of FCI

*590. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the original reformer catalyst supplied by the contractors for the Methanol Plant at Trombay unit of the Fertiliser Corporation of India was a total failure;

(b) if so, the action taken against the Contractors;

(c) the name of the party who supplied the new catalyst which enabled production at 60 per cent of the rated capacity;

(d) whether the problem of locating a proper substitute catalyst has now been solved and fully rated capacity being utilised; and

(e) if not, by when this will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
CHEMICALS AND MINES AND
METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) Having failed to settle the issue amicably with the contractors FCI has refer-