

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

(a) and (b). While no specific proposal for setting up of a Power Station based on Tapti gas has been received by Government, in some communications the Government of Gujarat have made mention of setting up of a super thermal station in Gujarat and utilisation of Tapti gas for power generation in Saurashtra. The question of utilisation of Tapti gas is premature since any decision about the exploitation and transportation of Tapti gas will be possible only after these structures have been fully appraised and declared commercial.

SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister kindly enlighten the House whether it is a fact, when the Bombay High Basin off-shore is fully developed, from the total produce available, Gujarat's share will be two million C.M.D. associated gas and 5 million CMD free gas? If so, has the State Government been pressing the Central Government to fulfil their promise lay the off-shore line by May 1979?

MR. SPEAKER: We are on Tapti. We are not on Bombay High. If you have any question on Tapti, you can put. Let us confine ourselves to Tapti.

SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Now, arising out of this, has any decision been taken there and, if not, when it is going to be taken for the utilisation of Tapti gas?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Sir, we are not yet sure about the Tapti field. When we find out the size of the Tapti field, we will determine the use of the Tapti gas.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: The hon. Minister has been to Gujarat more than once and he knows that there is a great demand for electricity power in Gujarat because of the increasing demand from various industries. In fact, it is increasing every year by 15 per cent and the thermal

scheme is limited and hydro is a long-term one. In view of these facts, will the hon. Minister keep in mind the fact that when the Tapti gas is available on some day, it will be available to Saurashtra area so that a new power station could be built up there to feed electricity to the increasing industries in Gujarat and Saurashtra?

MR. SPEAKER: Highly hypothetical question. First of all, we must get the gas, then only the question of Saurashtra comes.

PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR: My question is: will the Tapti gas be piped to Saurashtra, assuming hopefully that the gas will be there?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: In view of the fact that we have yet to establish this field, I can neither accept nor deny the proposition developed by the hon. Member.

Incentive to Drug Units in Backward Areas

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*228. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:**
SHRI BHAGAT RAM:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have taken a decision to give incentive to drug units in backward areas;

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken and already taken;

(c) whether Government are also considering to give special facilities to small scale units which are ready to set up their factories in backward areas; and

(d) if so, the facilities being provided to them?

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

(a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Government have announced, from time to time, a number of concessions and facilities for the industrial development of backward areas. These include concessional finance extended by central term-lending institutions, subsidy on fixed capital investment, income tax reliefs, preferential treatment in regard to hire purchase of machinery by small scale units, consultancy arrangements and interest subsidy for small scale units, special facilities for the import of machinery, raw materials and components etc. in the cases of small scale industries, transport subsidy, establishment of District Industries Centres and rural industries project. The incentives and assistance rendered to such units are also contained in Chapters VI and VII of the Guidelines for Industries published by the Deptt. of Industrial Development. All these facilities are available to drug units also.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Sir, I have gone through the statement carefully. The drug manufacturers in this country are so strong and they have their own lobby and according to this scheme, the benefit is intended to go to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. According to the statements appeared in Financial Express, may I know from the hon. Minister if such lobby cannot capture him? My impression is that the benefits contained in the scheme cannot be derived by people for whom these are actually intended. May I know which are the backward areas where this scheme is in operation?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The backward areas or the number of districts declared by the Government of India from time to time as backward districts in India, run into hundreds in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Is present formulation not suitable for helping them?

If it is not suitable would you reconsider the matter?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: The information which I sought was—which are the backward areas in which this scheme is in operation.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: In India, if I remember correctly, there are more than 126 districts which have been declared backward.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: This scheme is intended for the benefit of the backward areas.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: I cannot, in this particular stance, spell out which small unit is operating in which backward district of the country.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: This scheme is intended particularly for the graduates and diploma holders Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. As per statement, the scheme requires them to deposit an earnest money. In the Financial Express I found it was Rs. 50,000. It is also absurd as the graduates who are seeking jobs cannot deposit Rs. 50,000. May I request the hon. minister to waive this earnest money especially for those who are coming from the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes communities to set up large drug units in backward areas?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: This is a policy framed by the Government as a whole in the Ministry of Industrial Development. This is a suggestion for action which the hon. member has made.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: I am very happy to know that the Government gives incentives to drug units in backward areas. In this connection I would like to know from the hon. Minister is any drug unit coming up in the Karnataka State? If so, the details thereof may be given.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: I am sorry, I will require notice for this.

SHRI PURNANARAYAN SINHA: In view of the fact that whole of the North East is a backward area, is there any programme of the Government in the public sector to start any drug unit in that area?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The public sector presently has no such intentions. But if there are small scale entrepreneurs or even other entrepreneurs, we will welcome them.

Talcher Fertilizer Plant

*230. **SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made for commissioning the Talcher Fertilizer Plant at Talcher, Orissa;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by Government so far on the project; and

(c) the various factors contributing to the delay in commencing commercial production in the unit?

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

(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The first gasifier in the Talcher fertilizer project was stabilised on 18th October, 1978 and the second on 22nd November, 1978. Test runs are in progress in the other sections of the plant. The plant is expected to be commissioned in February/March, 1979 and to go into commercial production in July, 1979.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the project upto 31-10-1978 is Rs. 151.77 crores.

(c) The Project comprises a large number of sections which have to be commissioned and stabilised in sequence. The delay in the commissioning of the project has been due mainly

to the difficulty in commissioning and stabilising the gasifiers and other sections due to trippings caused by failure of equipment, power failures, etc. The two gasifiers have now been stabilised and action is on hand to commission other sections.

SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: The managerial inefficiency is responsible for the delay in commissioning the plant and reaching commercial production stage. It is understood that the present General Manager, Mr. Biswas, is not interested to remain there. He generally remains out of the headquarters for most of the time and this causes unnecessary delay in the commissioning of the plant. I want to know when will this plant be commissioned for production?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: The plant will be commissioned in March/April, 1979. There are a number of causes for its delay like delay in the finalisation of civil designs for nearly 12 months, which was done by the P&D of the FCI; delays in the civil construction activities of the contractor; delays in the supply of equipment imported and local mainly latter especially by the Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels to the extent of 24 to 30 months. Commissioning of the project has also been delayed on account of the necessity to effecting some modifications due to the extremely intricate knowhow in the matter of coal gasification of which even those who were the consultants, M/s Koppers of Germany, did not have all the knowledge and they went on time and again doing it because in the world, except South Africa, no other country has full knowledge about it.

SHRI GANGA PRADHAN: It is understood that faulty equipment have been purchased from different sections and that is why, the plant is facing recurring failure stage by stage. Is the Minister prepared to inquire into the matter of installation of faulty equipment and delay in commissioning the project, about which the people have complained to his Ministry?