

Andhra Pradesh, in KG basin, we have found both oil and gas. The quantity of gas is more specially in the island area of the East Godavari district. We have already laid a pipeline from that area to Kovvur and not beyond Kovvur. We have already committed to Narsapur power plant. Then we are going to Kakinada. At present, we are not satisfied with it because the production is not so much. The question of conversion will come later on. Why should we go to the third stage before crossing the first stage?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You must have some plans in the Eighth Plan.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: That is all right. The perspective plan is ready.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the hon. Minister's statement about the proposed construction of new terminals, I would like to know the number of new terminals proposed to be constructed and also which are these new terminals and by what time these terminals are expected to be completed?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, this proposal is under consideration of the Government and these terminals will be located on the sea-coast. As soon as technical assistance is available in this regard, I shall get the work started. I expect that technical advice will reach us by the end of this year and thereafter it will take two years more to construct the terminals.

[*English*]

Device to Check Explosions

*910. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pune based company has developed a safety device to guard men and machines from fuel container explosions that may occur due to combustion or fire;

(b) whether the said device can be easily installed inside the fuel container, car petrol tank, aircraft, gas cylinders etc. and even in the currently used containers; and

(c) whether Government have gone through the functioning of the said device and if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). M/s. Firma Exco India Pvt. Ltd., Pune have been granted foreign collaboration with M/s. Zenith Industrieanlagenau Ges. m.b.H., Austria for manufacture of explosion control apparatus and filler bodies for combustible fuel in the small scale sector in December 1987. The said device, it is claimed, can either be installed at the time of construction of fuel storage tankers or insertion filled as in motor vehicle fuel tanks. With the use of these filler bodies, the possible explosion of fuel tank is claimed to be prevented. The foreign collaboration was approved in December 1987. No report has so far been received about the implementation of the project or about the functioning of the device.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of lives are lost an account of explosions of oil tankers and L.P.G. cylinders. If this company is developing a safety device with foreign collaboration in our country to guard against such explosions, it becomes imperative for this Government to acquire the details about the functioning of the said device. I have received the information that the company has not only developed such a device but it has also held its demonstration. Therefore, in order to infuse confidence amount the masses, the Government should get an enquiry conducted

into its functioning through an agency because nowadays there are many companies which are duping people. I would like to know whether after getting necessary investigations conducted by an agency, the hon. Minister will inform the House about the efficacy of the device and its effectiveness in checking the occurrence of such explosions which cause a serious damage to life and property?

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: This is a new device coming in India for the first time and has been introduced very recently. We have given the licence recently. We have our Technical Development Department. We will ask our people to go into it and study the safety measures.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Minister through you that the Explosive Department is under him and therefore he may ask that Department to conduct an enquiry into it and if that safety device is found to be effective it may be conveyed to the House. It is claimed that with the use of this device, the possible explosions and the resultant damage of live and property can be prevented. The Government should convey the details of this safety device to the people so that a confidence may be instilled among the people about its effectiveness.

[English]

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: The hon. Member has given a good suggestion. I will ask the Explosive Department to go along with the DGTD to find out the safety measures.

[Translation]

Import of Liquefied Natural gas for power generation

*911. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Liquefied Natural Gas imported and the value thereof during the last three years, year-wise:

(b) the percentage of indigenously available natural gas being used for power generation at present;

(c) the reasons for not increasing the utilisation of indigenous natural gas for power generation;

(d) whether Government propose to formulate a time bound scheme to become self-reliant in this field; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). No liquefied natural gas is being imported. The entire natural gas supplied for power generation is available from indigenous sources.

(c) to (e). With the present availability of gas, commitments to the extent possible have already been made for power generation. Further commitments would depend upon the extent of increased availability of gas, requirements of other priority sectors like fertilizers and sponge iron and technological viability of its utilisation.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: It appears that one section of the Government is trying to import the LNG in spite of definite protest from the Planning Commission and they are trying to revive the Sachar Committee report which advocated for such import. Will the Minister give an assurance that the LNG will not be imported because it appears that it will be detrimental to the interest of the country.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, nothing will be done which is detrimental to the interest of the nation.