

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : About the report to which attention has been drawn, I would like to say that the report is not based on facts. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also trying to utilise this gas. We have several meetings with them. About the gas plant which the AP State Electricity Board has proposed, ONGC is in a position to supply gas for 3 megawatt units. The price will be decided by the Government. Provisionally, it is kept at Rs. 900 to Rs. 1000 per 1000 cubic meters, but final adjustments are to be made about this.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, he did not reply to my point.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, you are not to follow the footsteps of Dagaji.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : The hon. Minister has not clearly understood the need to make the coal price equivalent to that of gas. Otherwise the entrepreneurs will find it very difficult to utilise the gas.

Secondly, in Kaikaluru well near Vijayawada very good oil was found and the quality of this oil is as good as the oil found in the Ankaleshwar Wells. Will the ONGC spend more money to explore the Kaikaluru area with more speed to derive oil which will to some extent ultimately reduce our importing oil from other countries?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We are considering to reduce the prices of natural gas for power plants. As regards oil, our emphasis is more and more on exploration and then exploitation. So, there is an exception. There is the possibility and we are spending money in this regard.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the funds demanded by ONGC last year for exploration and for completing the projects have not been fully utilised by it whereas on the other hand, gas worth crores of rupees had to be burnt. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to take any active step in this direction because on the one hand the funds made available to the Ministry are not being utilised fully and on the other hand, gas worth crores of rupees is burning and going waste? Is his Ministry going to take any steps and if so, the nature thereof?

MR. SPEAKER : Let them give money to us and then see how money is spent quickly.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, although this question is not related to the main question yet I would submit that gas is, no doubt, burning. One third of the gas is going waste because we do not have the bottling capacity. Phase-III is going to be completed within a period of one year and we are now moving towards Phase-IV. We are also trying that private sector may install bottling plant so that maximum gas is made available. But it is not true that the funds are not being utilised.

[English]

Collaboration Agreements for updating Technology

*314. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will he Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of collaboration agreements with foreign firms for up-dating technology signed by India during the last three years: and

(b) the impact of these agreements on product range, quality of product and cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) 2,449 Foreign Collaboration proposals were approved during the last 3 years (1983-85).

(b) These agreements are expected to improve production speedily through greater efficiency and fuller utilisation of existing capabilities, and enhance the quality and reliability of performance and output.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question has not at all been replied to the question is totally different from the reply. He is a new Minister and therefore, I do not want to say much. The question is whether any National Technology Development Plan has been formulated to update the high technology? Secondly, whether you have requisite manpower or not to implement that Plan? My third supplementary is whether you have any data as to which industries have been permitted to enter foreign collaboration and also which type of foreign collaboration has been permitted? In addition to the above, kindly tell us whether indigenous technology was available in regard to those about which figures have been given and whether permission was given because of non-availability of indigenous technology? I

want to tell you that during the last 20 years, you have given the permissions as follows:-

[English]

"In the last twenty years the country has signed 9,966 collaboration agreements with foreign firms for technology updates but what we get is products with changed brand names and no improvement either in product range or in unit cost," says a senior Industry Ministry official.

The industry has largely failed to make best use of transferred technology "

[Translation]

I, therefore, want to know to what extent you have marched forward towards achieving self-reliance after the high technology transfer and in what sectors you have achieved indigenisation?

MR. SPEAKER : Did I not stop you?

[English]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Sir, the sources of technology are limited and the suppliers are not willing to part with their technology. Our technology is the latest and the best available on the basis of instrumental capacity where feasible. In ordinary cases, we are not allowing these foreign collaborations.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : The Finance Committee has taken a decision very recently under the chairmanship of Shri V.P. Singh. Our foreign exchange is being spent outside the country and the position of balance of payments is deteriorating. Have you ever thought as to how much foreign exchange is drained out to foreign countries and how much the position of balance of payments has deteriorated as a result of giving permission for import of technology? I want to know whether you have any data as to how much is the demand in the country and for which item, and how many licences are being issued by you? Kindly give us this information.

[English]

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : Sir, without the

knowledge of the Finance Minister, we have no power to take the technology. It must go to the Cabinet Sub-Committee of Economic Affairs, where the Finance Minister is the Chairman. In that Committee only we approve all these things. Without the knowledge of the Finance Minister, we cannot approve any foreign technology.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Joint Consultancy Agreement with Non-Resident Company

*310. DR. A.K. PATEL :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Fresh conditions for technology imports" appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 29 August, 1986 wherein it is stated that Government have specified fresh conditions for technology imports with a view to accelerating absorption and adaptation of the imported know-how;

(b) if so, what are these conditions; and

(c) whether these conditions are fulfilled in the case of recently reported Joint Consultancy Agreement with a non-resident company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c). In order to accelerate meaningful absorption and adaptation of imported technologies by Indian enterprises and their future improvement on a self-reliant basis, it is considered necessary to bring the Production and Research and Development Sectors in the country closer. Accordingly it has been decided that where technology payments are more than Rs. 2 crores during the period of foreign collaboration, the following conditions will apply :

(i) It will be obligatory on the part of Indian entrepreneurs desirous of having foreign collaboration to involve competent R&D personnel (from within the enterprise or from any other competent R&D Institution in the relevant area) in the process of technology acquisition right from the negotiating stage.

(ii) The Indian Party shall submit a time