

from the hon. Minister : what is the actual requirement for industrial alcohol in our country, what is the quantity of production and what are the proposals of the Government to meet the deficit ?

SHRI VEEERNDRA PATIL : I can give the total picture about the production demand. Recently, we had a meeting of the Molasses Control Board, where the State Excise Ministers are also represented. We had a detailed discussion about the estimated production of alcohol, both for industrial and potable purposes it will be of the order of 6,000 lakh litres for the current alcohol year. The demand from the different States that was projected to us comes to about 3600 lakh litres. So, according to that demand, there is a shortage of 2600 lakh litres. But our impression is that in many of the States, the demand is not as projected. They are trying to boost up the demand. Therefore, a sub-committee was constituted; and in that sub-committee, a decision was taken, viz. that so far as demand for potable purposes is concerned, it should be pegged down to the level of consumption during 1982-83; and for industrial alcohol, whatever consumption was there last year, plus 10%, should be taken in to account. If these two norms which have been laid down, are accepted, then I feel there is no shortage of alcohol in the country. Even then, if any unit, based on alcohol feels any shortage, then we have already made it known to all these units and State Governments that whatever quantity of industrial alcohol is required, they are at liberty to import it. There is no duty; it is completely free from duty.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : In the year 1956, Government enacted a legislation equalizing the freight on coal, steel etc. What concrete steps have Government taken for the distribution of industrial alcohol to different States at the same price, according to their necessity ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : So far as distribution or allocation of alcohol is concerned, Government of India's role is the role of a coordinator. We have meetings of this Board. There, we discuss with the States about production and demand, and whether they are in a position to have any surplus, after taking into consideration all that, the

allocation orders are given. They are made from one State to the other—from the surplus States to the deficit States. There is no question of our supplying this alcohol to a particular State, because alcohol is being produced in the States. It is a State subject. But as a coordinator, we want to see that wherever there is a deficit is made good from the surplus States.

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : As the demand for industrial purpose alcohol is increasing, why not reduce the supply for potable alcohol ? After all, prohibition is an accepted national policy and alcohol ruins families and millions of people suffer like that in this country. Why not gradually reduce the allocation for potable purposes within five to ten years ? Will the hon. Minister consider this proposal ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Regarding the question of reducing the supply for potable purposes, I think the Government of India cannot do much. We have already made known to several State Governments that so far as supply of alcohol is concerned, preference should be given to industrial purposes and alcohol for potable purposes should be met only after industrial purposes requirement is fully met. But I agree with the hon. Member that the consumption for potable purposes is going up. Earlier consumption for industrial purposes was much more than the consumption for potable purposes. But now the consumption, since 1980-81, for potable purposes is going up and compared to industrial purposes, the potable consumption is much more because of the policy of State Government; several State Governments have relaxed the prohibition policy. Naturally, demand for potable purposes is picking up and it is growing up. But, it is for the State Governments to consider within the States how much they want to allocate for potable purpose and how much they want to allocate for industrial purposes. But, as the Government of India, we have impressed upon the State Governments to give priority for industrial purposes.

Gas Deposits in Tripura

*452. **SHRI AJOY BISWAS :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have made any

detailed survey of the total deposits of gas, in Tripura region;

(b) if so, the total quantity of deposits of gas so far assessed; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to establish gas-based industries in Tripura for the proper utilisation of the deposits of gas besides thermal plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As on 1-1-1984, 1082 million cubic meters of recoverable reserves of gas have been established.

(c) Further exploration of the different structures in Tripura is continuing and depending upon the overall results, a detailed programme of gas utilisation will be drawn up. In the meantime, the ONGC has agreed to supply some gas to the Tripura State Electricity Board for power generation.

Gas based industries can be planned only after more reserves are established.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The Minister has said about reservation, but he has not said what is the total quantity of gas that will be available. So, I am telling you that the officials are not supplying the correct information to the Minister. It has already been complicated, There are three places like Baramura, Roukhia and Gujalia. We can get just now one Lakh and fifty thousand cubic metres of gas. During the 7th plan, we shall get about 10 lakh cubic metres of gas. There is huge gas available in Tripura. Tripura is industrially a backward State and the Central Government actually is not coming forward to set up any industry in Tripura. It is a step-motherly attitude towards Tripura people. The 7th plan has been finalised. Will the Minister assure the House that in the 7th plan he will include gas based fertilizer plant for Tripura ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : With regard to information which I have supplied, my hon. friend has doubted the

information with regard to the availability of gas. I have specifically said in answer to questions (a) and (b) that "1082 million cubic metres of recoverable reserves of gas have been established." This is what has been established. So far as the information my learned friend has given with regard to the availability of gas during the seventh Five Year Plan is concerned, we are not sure about it. The drilling is going on and unless the reserves are established, we would not be able to agree to the suggestion or the forecast which my learned friend has given.

It is not correct to say that the Central Government is ignoring Tripura in setting up industries there. In fact, the Tripura Government has made a request for supply of gas for power stations only. And we have already committed to the Tripura Government in that regard. So far as industrialisation is concerned, they have not indicated as to which industries they are going to set up. They have only written a letter saying that the gas may be made available after 1987. But the purpose for which they demanded the gas is not indicated. Unless we have sufficient established reserves of gas, we will not be in a position to commit anything at this State. If we have sufficient established reserves of gas, we can certainly consider the proposal of setting up the fertiliser plant, if it is worthwhile to do it.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The Engineers India Limited have made some survey about establishment of gas, based industries in Tripura. Will the Central Government look in to the matter and accept their proposal ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : As I have replied earlier, unless we have established reserves of gas, we will not be in a position to commit anything. The present availability of gas is not sufficient for establishing any industry in that area. As and when sufficient reserves of gas are established, we will certainly look in to all the proposals which come to this Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, sometime back, gas reserves were found in Motihari in Bihar, but no further progress

is being made in that regard.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not have information about the question asked by the hon. Member. If he gives a notice and gives in writing, he can get information in this regard.

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want to know whether he had delineated the zone of formation of hydro-carbon in Tripura? if so, what is the name of the organisation which had done it? In the world there is no technique to assess the mineable reserves of hydrocarbon or gas. Based on that, will the Minister tell whether it is probable recoverable reserve or established reserve ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :
I have already stated that this is an established reserve of gas, which means that the gas which can be available from various wells which have been drilled.

[Translation]

Registration of Small Scale Units

*455. **SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI :**

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of **INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the initial period of the proposed registration of small scale units is valid for one year;

(b) if so, the period for which the same can be extended in the event of non-setting up of unit by entrepreneur within the period of one year;

(c) whether any proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government is pending with the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) for extending the validity period of the proposed registration of small scale units; and

(d) If so, the action taken by Government to simplify the rules in this regard ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the event of the unit not being able to come into existence within one year's period, the validity of provisional registration can be extended by another year by the Director of Industries of the State. Further, the validity of the provisional registration can be extended beyond two years by the State Director of Industries with the concurrence of DC (SSI).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Final decision has yet to be taken in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the details of the proposal of Madhya Pradesh Government which is pending with him, the date since when it is pending and the reason for not accepting or rejecting the same so far ?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Bye-Products of Bombay High

*453. **SHRI SHANTARAM POT-DUKHE :** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM** be pleased to state :

(a) the total petroleum production in Bombay High during 1984-85;