

that has been given to us in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

[English]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, the Hon. Minister has assured this House a number of times after I became a Member of the House, that the digital electronic factory in Bangalore would be installed soon. Just now the Hon. Minister says that the Government has yet to take a decision.

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. He said that it is not feasible with the allocation which he has. That is what he has said.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : But the point is : Is the Government taking any decision ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, they are phasing out exchanges in 1987-88. (Interruptions). Sir, another one year remains. Then what will happen to the staff ? Nearly 16,000 are working in Bangalore and Rai Bareli. So the Government must take a decision. For the past so many years they have been saying that they are going to take a decision, but they are deferring it. What will happen to the employees, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : Without money what can they do ?

(Interruptions).

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : What will happen to the staff ?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : Sir, I share the concern of the Hon. Member on two points; firstly, that the electronic factory as it stood in Bangalore should come up so that we have more electronic switching equipment in our system, and secondly, how to re-deploy the staff which will become surplus because we want to phase out the crossbar and the strowger exchanges. But the present allocation of Rs. 4010 crores is not sufficient even to lift the production of the present factory not to say of the new electronic factory. We are in touch with the Planning Commission as well as the Ministry of Finance and I have conveyed to them the

concern expressed by the Hon. Members, and we hope that we will get more allocations so that at least the electronic digital factory in Bangalore comes up at the earliest opportunity.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Man lives on hope.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Minister gave a frank reply that the 13000 to 14000 workers who will be affected by the discontinuation of these factories would be re-deployed. So, what is also required is re-tooling or re-training of workers because the line of production will be entirely new. Is there any plan for re-training of workers ?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That will have to be done.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Retraining is as good as re-tooling.

AN HON. MEMBER : And then retaining also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA : They point made by the Hon. Member is very correct. Re-deployment would mean training them, rather re-training them for use in the electronics factory which is completely a different technology from the mechanical one which we are having now. We have drawn out a programme in a phased manner as to how they will be retrained and absorbed. Otherwise, they will not be useful in the years to come.

Production of crude oil

*65. **SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for crude oil production during the current year;

(b) whether this year crude oil production has been less than during the previous years; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) 30.21 million tonnes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister for the purpose of more production, what are the positive steps that have been taken to discover and explore oil, particularly in the North-eastern region area, Bay of Bengal off-shore and onshore in North Bengal and North Bihar ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, leaving out the latter part which is a specific part, this is a general question and to that I would like to tell the Hon. Member this. There is a proposal to make oil exploration efforts during the 7th Plan period and the exploratory drilling target has been more than doubled. From 9,50,000 metres in the 6th Plan, it is 28,00,000 metres in the 7th Plan. So, this has been, according to our mathematics, nearabout 3 times of than what it was in the 6th Plan. Simultaneously, 27 off-shore blocks have also been opened* to foreign companies to explore. The Russian assistance has also been taken for integrate exploration in Cauvery and combay basin.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : While in the international market the oil price is going down rapidly and when the production is going to be raised day by day in our country, whether the Government will consider to bring down the oil price ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : No, Sir.

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : I reiterate what I said earlier. What I wanted to know is that the administered prices of petroleum were increased tremendously a few months back, with the justification that the plan would be maintained and also exploration would be increased. Now,

neither of which has happened. On the contrary, even though the prices are going down in the international market, we are not able to take much advantage of it. What is the action the Government is going to take to see that these things are done ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I am afraid, I do not agree with the Hon. Member. We are taking full advantage of the situation, just now. At the same time, we have to conform also to the plan targets and we are keeping our eyes open. In addition, I would like to point out that we have to see the projections of balance of payment and foreign exchange reserves also. That is a very relevant point. We have also to see the contribution of domestic oil to the country's resources. All these factors cannot be ruled out.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : I want to know from the intelligent Minister whether the detailed surveys have been made by NSRA, Geological Survey of India and her Department to get the survey information and sedimentary basin where generally hydro carbons occur. If so, how many sq. kms. have they explored and what is the total reserve of crude hydro carbons available in our country ?

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : Sir, I am very glad that he called me intelligent and I hope I would rise to the occasion.

All these exploratory efforts which I have mentioned earlier, are expected to result in establishing new hydro carbon reserves, which will add to the production in the Eighth Five Year Plan and in the succeeding Plans.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the target fixed by the Department is 30.21 million tonnes. Supposing the target is achieved, I want to know whether we are self-sufficient in our country with regard to crude oil production. If not, how much of crude oil is being imported to our country ? Even in the Kaveri belt, recently there was an exploration and they have found out in Narimalam area in Tamilnadu that the oil which is found in Narimalam is the best of

its kind. I want to know how much of production is expected in Narimalam.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I am supposed to reply to the latter part but I will reply the first part.

MR. SPEAKER : Whichever can be satisfied.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I am afraid I cannot reply the second part but I can assure the Hon. Member that...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : AIADMK will be satisfied without the answer also.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI : I would like the Member to be satisfied that steps have been taken to increase the production of crude oil. We have adopted certain methods and we are taking steps to enhance production of oil and they will lead to very good results and, as a matter of fact, the water injection method has already started in Bombay High now. It is expected to begin in Bombay High South in September, 1986. Moreover, we are taking up repair of 400 sick wells. This also will add to the rate of production in oil. In addition, I would also like to point out that there are a number of research centres in the K. D. Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration, Dehradun. There is a drilling institute. There is a reservoir study in Ahmedabad. There is Ocean Technology Institute. Each one of it is making efforts to increase production.

Illegal mining of coal

*66. SHRI RAM DHAN : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal mining of coal is constantly on the rise in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps being to taken prevent it ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no organised illegal coal mining in the lease hold areas of the coal companies in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. However, as the coal belt in the country is vast, certain persons at times violate the provisions of law and indulge in illegal extraction of coal, sporadically and stealthily.

The coal Mines Nationalisation Acts were amended in 1976 making illegal coal mining a cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment extending upto 3 years and fine extending upto Rs. 20,000. The vires of these amendments have already been upheld by the Supreme Court in 1980. The State Governments have been asked to take both punitive and preventive action against the offenders in terms of the Nationalisation Act read with provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The State Governments in turn had already issued instructions to the district authorities. The coal companies have been directed to report the cases of illegal mining as and when detected by them to the law enforcing authorities in the State. Besides, the coal companies in conjunction with the State Government's law enforcing authorities conduct regular raids to apprehend offenders. Regular patrolling and surprise checks are also being conducted by the coal companies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has very cleverly admitted that illegal mining in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is going on in an un-organised manner and not in an organised manner. It is a known fact that the politicians, the police administration and mafia gangs have formed parallel governments in Bihar and even the trade union leaders are helpless there. By trade union leaders, I mean the trade union leaders at all India level. The local trade union leaders are themselves involved in it. The helplessness of our Hon. Minister is that.....

[English]

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY : Are you talking from your faith or knowledge ?