

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up of new oil refineries

607. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to establish new oil refineries in the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of new refineries proposed to be set up during the remaining period of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any programme in this regard has also been drawn up for the Eighth Plan period; and

(d) if so, what is the number of refineries proposed to be set up at different places in the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) The Government have decided to set up a new grass root refinery each at Karnal, Mangalore and in Assam. However, these refineries would not be completed during the Seventh Plan period. A Working Group has been constituted for making appropriate recommendations to increase the refining capacity in the country including schemes for debottlenecking the capacity of the existing refineries for inclusion in the Eighth Plan.

Claims of Bhopal gas tragedy victims

608. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) What is the number of victims of Bhopal gas leakage who have filed their claims; and

(b) by when all the claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):

(a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that 6,00,767 persons have filed claims with the Directorate of Claims as on 25th April, 1989.

(b) Certain related issues being still *sub-judice*, it has not been possible to take up processing of claims.

Collaboration for off-shore drilling

609. PROF. C. LAKSHMANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2890 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 27th March, 1989 and state:

(a) what are the detail of the terms of collaboration between M/s. Peerless Drive Limited and M/s. Rolv Berg Drive A/S Norway for off-shore drilling; and

(b) whether the new company has already started functioning and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT):

(a) A foreign collaboration had been approved between M/s. Peerless Drive Private Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Rolv Berg Drive A/S, Norway for off-shore and sub-sea Maintenance work in the Petroleum Sector. The approval provides for, *inter alia*, a foreign equity participation of 40% amounting to Rs. 160 lacs in the total paid up capital of Rs. 400 lacs and a payment of lumpsum know-how fee of US \$ 300—net of taxes with the tax liability being born by M/s.

Peerless Drive Pvt. Ltd. The approval was granted in September, 1988 and is valid for a period of 2 years.

(b) There is no information of ONGC awarding any contract as yet to this Company.

Production of banned pesticides

610. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the devastating results of unrestricted manufacture, imports and exports of pesticides as reported in the 'India Today' of the 15th June, 1989;

(b) whether it is a fact that plans are under way for increased manufacture by public sector of several pesticides which are banned abroad; and

(c) whether UNIDO and other UN agencies are assisting and encouraging this country in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): (a) Government is aware of the article which appeared in 'India Today'. The manufacture and use of pesticides in India is regulated under the Insecticides Act, 1961 and the rules framed there under by the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Setting up of oil refinery in the Eastern region

611. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up an oil refinery in the Eastern region of the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any expert opinion from Oil India Limited for selecting the site; and

(c) what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Government have decided to set up an oil refinery in Assam under the Assam Accord.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Theft of electricity in the Capital

612. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently there has been theft of electricity in the Capital on a very large scale by the big industrial units;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to suggest measures to eliminate theft of power and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH