

cases pending in the Hon'ble Court are frozen with regard to liabilities, it would be possible to revive MAMCO, with the support of the Govt. of West Bengal in the form of various concessions and moratorium (in line with its industrial policy) and assurance of supply orders from CII and DVC.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) of the question.

Investment by State owned oil companies in Iran

* 335. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI. N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether state owned oil companies have forwarded a proposal to Tehran for investing \$5 billion in an offshore gas field;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether Iran has since responded to their plans;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether United States has expressed reservations about Indian investments in Iran's energy sector; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) has submitted a proposal for Master Development Plan (MDP) of Farzad - B gas field, Persian Gulf, Iran to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) in compliance to the provisions of the Exploration Service Contract (ESC) for Farsi Block. The amount of the investment will depend on the approval of MDP by Iranian authorities.

(c) and (d) Some technical observations on the proposed MDP were received from Iranian side and were suitably responded by OVL.

(e) The US Government has put in place sanctions against Iran to deter foreign investment in the country including in the energy sector.

(f) Government of India as a matter of policy is opposed to sanctions being placed on any country. It believes that all outstanding issues with Iran should be resolved peacefully through dialogue and negotiation.

Cost of production of natural gas

*336. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted by his Ministry to estimate the cost of production of natural gas in the country, particularly the KG Basin, including the cost of exploration;