

(e) which companies or concerns of the private sector are likely to be permitted to undertake oil exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Theft of urea from the Barauni Fertilizer Factory

206. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that urea worth Rs. 2 crore was found missing from the Barauni Fertilizer Factory of the Hindustan Fertilizers;

(b) whether the officials of the fertiliser factory are involved in this affair;

(c) whether any inquiry has since been conducted into the theft of such a large quantity of urea;

(d) if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken against those who have been found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R. C. RATH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) The question do not arise.

Public sector corporation for marketing natural gas

207. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to set up a new public sector corporation to handle the transportation, processing and marketing of all natural gas;

(b) if so, by when such a corporation is likely to be set up; and

(c) what are the details of functions likely to be assigned to the proposed corporation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) It has been decided to set up a corporation for transportation, processing, marketing, etc. of natural gas. Steps are under way to set up the corporation, and it is expected to start functioning at an early date.

Supply of cooking gas

208. SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the shortage of cooking gas in Delhi;

(b) whether it is a fact that the supply of refills to consumers in Delhi takes upto seven days;

(c) whether this delayed supply of cooking gas refills to consumers causes great hardship to them;

(d) whether it is also a fact that restrictions have been imposed on the booking for a second cylinder by the consumers; and

(e) if so, what are the reasons therefor and by when the booking for a second cylinder is likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (c) Supply of LPG refills to consumers in Delhi is normal except in certain locations where there is some backlog due to certain operational problems.

(d) There is no restriction on booking of second cylinder by consumers.

(e) In view of 'd' above does not arise.