

(d) whether it is a fact that the Gas Cracker Unit is to be shifted from Tengakhat to Bogbarua in the same district?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. (RAPL) which holds the Letter of Intent (LOI) for setting up the gas cracker project in Assam and Oil India Limited (OIL) have initiated the draft gas supply agreement on 6.7.2000 and have agreed to execute the final gas supply agreement after obtaining approval of their respective Board of Directors and acceptance by the financial institutions from the RAPL side. It has been agreed to supply the gas at a price of Rs. 600 per thousand standard cubic metres.

(d) Yes, Sir. RAPL had earlier identified as site at Tengakhat in Dibrugarh district. However, due to technical requirements an alternate site has been identified at Lapatkata in Dibrugarh district.

Withdrawal from Oil Pool account by the Ministry of Finance

*320. **SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:**

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Finance has taken out Rs. 4400 crore from the oil pool account for reducing the budget deficit;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry of Finance has been asked to return this money; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) From 1982-83 onwards, when the oil pool account started generating surpluses, deposits were made into Public Account of India. The balance of such deposit as on 31.3.1999 was Rs. 4,429 crores. The amount is still receivable and forms part of "Other liabilities" of Government of India, Ministry of Finance has

been requested to allow OCC to withdraw this amount. No final decision has been taken as yet.

Growth in industrial output

2326. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the growth in industrial output during 1999-2000, sector-wise;
- (b) how these growth rates compare with 1997-98 and 1998-99; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to accelerate industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The growth rates of industrial production sector-wise during the last three years i.e. 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given as under:

Growth rates of Industrial Production by major sectors (Base 1993-94=100)

(in percentage)

Year (Weight)	Mining (10.47)	Manufacturing (79.36)	Electricity (10.17)	Overall (100.00)
1997-98	5.9	6.6	6.6	6.6
1998-99	-1.7	4.2	6.5	3.8
1999-2000	0.7	9.1	6.6	8.1

(c) The Government has taken various steps from time to time to accelerate industrial production. This has been supported by continued reforms in industry (including foreign direct investment policy), trade, infrastructure, information technology and financial sectors which have helped industry to improve its efficiency, productivity and international competitiveness.