

Visit of the Minister of Petroleum Chemicals and Fertilizers to various foreign countries

1236. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR:
SHRI RAMANAND YADAV:
SHRI F. M. KHAN:
SHRI SYED AHMAD
HASHMI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during his recent visit to foreign countries he had discussed plans for stepping up of crude output at Bombay high and problems relating to oil exploration, supply of rigs for off shore drilling, the setting up of a gas cracker plant and aromatics complex and the long-pending proposal for the take over of the Oil India in which the Burma Oil Company holds 50 per cent equity; and

(b) if so, what are the names of countries which he had visited and what is the outcome of his talks?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) I had visited France, England, Romania and Italy during the period 25th January—7th February, 1981.

2. I availed of the occasion to discuss cooperation in the field of oil exploration such as supply of equipment with the concerned Government. During my stay in France I had detailed discussions with CFP (who are already collaborating with ONGC in the Bombay High) regarding further development of Bombay High including the satellite structures. Detailed proposals from the company are awaited.

3. The visit was not with the specific object of seeking any country's collaboration in setting up of petrochemical units in India. No proposals were, therefore, made to any of these countries in this regard. However, our interest in foreign collaboration was indicated when the subject came up for discussion. Both France and Italy have

expressed interest in assisting us in setting up of the petrochemical complexes.

4. During the course of discussions I informed the British Government that take over of Oil India is under our active consideration.

Coal production during the Sixth Five Year Plan

1237. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make an investment of Rs. 3,000 crores for the development of coal mines during the Sixth Five Year Plan period and raise the output to 169 million tonnes; and

(b) whether any plans for the welfare of the workers engaged in the coal industry have also been drawn up by Government; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) During the Sixth Five Plan an investment of Rs. 2573 crores has been approved for the coal industry to achieve a targeted production of 165 million tonnes per annum by 1984-85.

(b) Yes, Sir.

The welfare programme for the workers engaged in the coal industry envisages *inter-alia* better living conditions, more housing satisfaction, improved availability of drinking water, provision for electricity, setting up medical dispensaries and hospitals, primary and high schools and colleges etc.

Power break-downs in Delhi

1238. SHRI J. K. JAIN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of breakdowns which occurred during the month of January, 1981 in the power supply in Delhi;