

Production of Natural Gas

*280. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of natural gas during 1980;

(b) the estimated production of natural gas in 1981; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the production of natural gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) About 2080 million cubic metres.

(b) About 3300 million cubic metres.

(c) With the increase in crude oil production, quantum of associated gas will increase correspondingly. Besides, action is also being taken to develop free gas fields of ONGC which would increase availability of non-associated gas during the coming years including the largest offshore free gas field discovered so far namely South Bassein Gas Field.

So far as OIL is concerned, free gas will be produced only when the need arises.

Selection Grades for Dandakaranya Project Employees

1588. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for not extending so far the benefits of Selec-

tion Grades to those employees in the Dandakaranya Project for whom Selection Grades were sanctioned; and

(b) by when the benefits mentioned at (a) above are proposed to be extended to the eligible candidates?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Selection Grades were sanctioned earlier for 27 categories of posts. Appointments have been made in 17 categories, on completion of assessment; assessment has been completed in 5 categories and appointments are being issued shortly; and the remaining 5 categories are being processed for an assessment.

Selection Grades have been sanctioned for 5 more categories a few days ago and appointments will be issued after completion of assessment in due course.

Number of Posts Declared is Selection Grades in Dandakaranya Project

1589. SHRI HARKISHAN SINGH SURJEET: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state the details of posts to which selection grades have been attached/allowed and sanctioned (percentage and actual number of posts declared selection grades to be indicated) in the Dandakaranya Project?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): A statement giving the required information is enclosed.