

Cooking gas connections on medical grounds

*212. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:
SHRI RAMACHANDRA
BHARDWAJ:

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

(a) the total number of applications for allotment of cooking gas connections in Delhi on medical grounds recommended by Members of Parliament which are pending sanction; and

(b) by when the cooking gas connections are likely to be provided to the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) Of the 1320 gas connections in Delhi recommended for sanction on priority by Members of Parliament on medical grounds from April to November, 1981, 40 applications are pending disposal in this Ministry. They will be disposed off on merits shortly.

Bonus to P & T employees

*213. SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO
DHABE:

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDÁ:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bonus to the employees of P&T Department for the year 1980-81 has been paid;

(b) if so, what amount has been paid on this account and on what basis; and

(c) whether any category of employees has been excluded from the payment of bonus; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 21 days wages were sanctioned and paid to the P&T Departmental employees, on the basis of their productivity achieved according to an agreed formula during the year 1980-

81. The quantum of bonus was computed on the basis of a formula that had been agreed to in the P&T Departmental Council (JCM). For Extra Departmental Employees and casual labourers also the disbursements were made on the basis of a similar formula. For Extra Departmental Employees an *ex-gratia* payment on the basis of a uniform monthly wage of Rs. 75 was allowed. Casual labour who had worked for at least 240 days of each year for 3 years or more as on 31-3-81 were paid an *ex-gratia* payment computed on the basis of a monthly wage of Rs. 150.

(c) Part-time employees paid from contingencies have not been sanctioned Productivity Linked Bonus as they are not covered by the agreement.

Extra Departmental Stamp Vendor

*214. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN:
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal for sanctioning the post of an Extra Departmental Stamp Vendor in Pushp Vihar Post Office has been pending since 1st January, 1981;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when Government propose to provide an Extra Departmental Stamp Vendor in that Post Office?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) An Extra Departmental Stamp Vendor will be provided in Pushp Vihar Post Office, New Delhi, when the same is justified on the basis of norms as prescribed by the Department.

Fertilizer factory at Kakinata

*215. SHRI M. R. APPAROW: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of the proposal for starting a fertilizer factory at Kakinada; and

(b) by when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) An industrial licence has been issued to Nagarjuna Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited for setting up a nitrogenous fertilizer plant at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, who are the promoters of the company, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s. Zuari Agro Chemicals Limited for the latter's participation in the equity of the company. Discussions are in progress between the two.

An application has also been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for an industrial licence for the setting up of a fertilizer plant at Kakinada for the manufacture of Diammonium Phosphate by M/s. Godavari Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited, a company being promoted by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. This application will be processed for a decision, keeping in view the demand/supply situation of phosphatic fertilizers in the region and other techno-economic factors.

Oil output in Sixth Five Year Plan

*216. **SHRI T. N. SUKUL:**

**DR. (SHEMATI) NAJMA
HEPTULLA:**

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

(a) the estimated increase in oil output in the Sixth Five Year Plan Period; and

(b) the potential of offshore B 57 and Palk Straits?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The production of crude oil during the 5 year period from 1975-76 to 1979-80 was 51.51 MMT. In the approved Sixth Five Year Plan the target of produc-

tion is 93.4 MMT of crude oil. It is however, hoped that the actual production during the Sixth Five Year Plan period will be considerably more than this target.

(b) It is too early to say. It will be necessary to drill a few more wells to assess the production potential of these fields.

Unsold stock of soda ash

*217. **SHRI R. R. MORARKA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soda ash industry is on the verge of closing down with Rupees 20 crores worth of unsold stocks because of large scale imports; and

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to impose a ban on imports of soda ash?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) The manufacturers of soda ash have represented that, as on 31-10-1981, the stocks of unsold soda ash were about 81,690 tonnes compared to 17,053 tonnes at the end of January, 1981. The value of stocks as on 31-10-1981 is about Rs. 17.26 crores. The manufacturers have been representing that because of large scale imports and poor offtake, stocks are accumulating and that, unless imports are banned, the industry would be badly affected. However, consumer's associations like the All India Glass Manufacturers' Federation and the All India Silicate Manufacturers' Association are pleading for the continuance of the present import policy. They contend that indigenous production of soda ash may fall short of the demand in the country. No decision has been taken by the Government on the representations. The import policy is constantly under review. Imports are regulated taking into account demand and indigenous availability.