

Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1978 and state:

(a) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to fulfill the assurance contained in this statement regarding flow of associated gas to Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that the recommendations of Working Group of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission under the Chairmanship of Mr. Satishchandra are contradictory to the assurance given in the above statement of 24th July, 1978 with regard to flow of associated gas; if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter;

(c) whether it is a fact that stock of associated gas will be exhausted by the time the pipe line is laid to Gujarat coast; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative what will be the annual quantity likely to be available to Gujarat from the year of the operation of pipe line from Bombay-High to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) In view of the subsequent developments regarding the substantial availability of free gas from the South Bassein field, the flow of associated gas from Bombay High to Gujarat is not envisaged now.

(b) No, Sir. The Working Group appointed by Government has recommended that for deriving maximum benefit from associated gas, which is richer in higher fractions, but is available in smaller quantities than the free gas now expected to be available, its flow may be confined to the Bombay high—Uran pipeline. This recommendation has been accepted by Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Offshore gas is primarily required in Gujarat for 2 fertilizer plants being set up at Hazira. Their estimated requirement of 3 m.c.m.d. will be supplied through a gas pipeline on completion of these plants.

Use of gas as a fuel for power generation in Gujarat

552. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any working group has recommended the use of gas as a fuel for power generation in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the names of the members of the working group and what is the text of its recommendations;

(c) whether Government have accepted the recommendations; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Incidents of booth capturing during recent State Assembly elections

553. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of incidents of large scale booth capturing during the recent State Assembly elections held in 1980;

(b) if so, what measures were taken to prevent such incidents and what are the reasons for the failure of these measures;

(c) what is the number of such incidents in each State; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to stop such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Out of the nine States where the general elections to the Legislative Assemblies were held recently, incidents of booth capturing were reported to the Election Commission from the three States of Bihar, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh in respect of 338 polling booths, out of the total number of 296,510 booths.

(b) The Election Commission issued elaborate instructions to the authorities concerned to take various measures like:—

(i) surrender of fire-arms;

(ii) identifying sensitive areas for special attention;

(iii) mopping up of anti-social elements before the poll;

(iv) distribution of ballot papers and sending of polling parties to polling booths only on the day of poll;

(v) declaration of the poll day as dry day;

(vi) mixing up of polling personnel drawn from various offices and Departments;

(vii) intensifying the patrolling parties; and

(viii) reporting of abnormal trend of voting by Presiding Officers and Returning Officers, etc.

(c) 291 cases in 81 assembly constituencies in the State of Bihar.

46 cases in 17 assembly constituencies in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

1 case in one assembly constituency in the State of Punjab.

(d) The Commission has since set up a cell to examine in detail the

incidents of booth capturing in the State of Bihar and lapses, if any, on the part of the electoral machinery in the matter of observance of the Commission's directives. Thereafter, the Commission would devise further effective means by which this evil can be eliminated.

Feedstock for Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Plant

554. **PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of foreign exchange is spent for securing feed-stock for fertilizer units of Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation and Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizer Plant in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what is the amount spent during the last three years, year-wise, and what is the likely amount to be spent in coming five years; and

(c) whether any fertilizer unit in India is working with natural gas as well as associate gas as feed-stock?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). Messrs Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Limited is operating a fertilizer plant at Baroda with a capacity to produce 236,000 tonnes of nitrogen and 50,000 tonnes of P205. The production of the above is based on naphtha, Gas, sulphur and rockphosphate as feedstock. Naphtha is supplied by the Indian Oil Corporation from Koyali Refinery and gas by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission from Ankleshwar. Hence the question of imports of these items does not arise except on occasions when the Koyali refinery is shut down. Rockphosphate and sulphur are supplied by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited from imports made by them and according to MMTC the foreign exchange spent on supplies