

(c) The ONGC and its consultants had studied the availability and suitability of other sites for the supply base on the Western Coast including that at Nhava before chalking out a master plan and project report on the Nhava base.

Delay in allotment of symbols to parties in the last Assembly elections

359. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was delay in allotment of symbols to parties and candidates in the last Assembly election;

(b) the number and the particulars of the constituencies where the symbols were not allotted till the deadline set up by the election notification; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to amend the provisions to avoid delays and inconveniences in the future?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal in this behalf is under contemplation at present.

Re-scheduling of imports due to new price fixation by the O.P.E.C.

360. SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have re-scheduled imports of petroleum and petroleum products in the light of the new price fixation by the OPEC recently;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what is the increase in the cost since January, 1980?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is reported that there has been a further increase in prices of crude oil after the recent conference of OPEC countries at Algiers. Full impact of the increase since January, 1980 is being worked out and would be furnished to the House in due course.

Exploitation of coal reserves in Assam

361. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any scheme to exploit the estimated coal reserves of 400 million tonnes in Assam; and

(b) if so, whether in the country young talents are likely to be given incentives to exploit the coal reserves in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal India has a proposal to reorganise mines in the Makum Coalfield to increase the production from 0.56 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 1.20 million tonnes at the end of the Plan period.

(b) The exploitation of the coal reserves in Assam will be done by Coal India Ltd.

Coal production during January—May, 1980

362. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI AZIZA IMAM:

SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state: