

Aid to the Third World by OPEC

802. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the OPEC at their recent meeting held in Vienna had decided to boost up their aid to the Third World;

(b) if so, what is the extent and nature of the aid to be given to the Third World by the OPEC; and

(c) what is the extent of aid expected by India as a result of this decision?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) The question of boosting up aid to the developing countries, *inter alia*, on account of rise in the price of oil has been engaging the attention of the OPEC and its Strategy Committee for quite some time. The OPEC is yet to finalise the criteria for financial assistance to Oil Importing Developing Countries taking into account the recommendations of its Strategy Committee. India is in touch with OPEC members on this question.

Production at Bombay High

803. SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what stage of production has been reached at the Bombay High; and

(b) what further steps Government propose to take for fuller utilisation during the current year and what is the proposed outlay and what production is expected from Bombay High during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The present production rate of crude oil from Bombay High is around 5 million tonnes per annum.

(b) A few more platforms are being installed under the Phase-II development programme of Bombay High already approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 535.48 crores. With the commissioning of these platforms, a production rate of 7 million tonnes per annum is expected to be achieved by the end of 1980.

The production target for the year 1980-81 is 5.6 million tonnes.

Western Kosi Canal Project

804. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are awaiting clearance in certain matters from Nepal for completion of the Western Kosi Canal Project;

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

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Western Kosi Canal Project (India and Nepal) was approved for execution by the Planning Commission in 1961. The major works however could start only in November, 1972, when the Government of Nepal started making land available for the construction of the initial 35.13 km. canal length in their territory. Since major portion of the main canal including the Head Regulator lies in Nepal, priority was given to Nepal portion of the canal and the work in Indian portion was started in 1973-74. The other reasons for delay in execution of the project are insufficient yearly outlays, the difficulties being faced in acquiring the land, and shortage of certain construction materials and of petrol, oil and lubricants required for various jobs on the project.