

Supply of crude oil by Mexico and Iraq

1257. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mexico has agreed to India's request to supply crude oil during 1980-81;

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

(c) whether Iraq whose delegation visited India during the month of June, 1980 had agreed to meet all the demands of India in regard to crude oil; and

(d) what is the total quantity of crude oil that Mexico, Iraq and other oil countries have agreed to provide India during the financial year 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) No agreement has been signed with Mexico on supply of crude oil to India for 1980-81.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Our total imports of crude oil during 1980-81 from all imported sources are likely to be of the order of 16 million tonnes.

1258. [Transferred to the 2nd July, 1980].

Publicity of Press Council decisions through the official media

1259. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:
SHRIMATI NARGIS DUTT:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Press Council has pronounced any judgement or passed any order during its Simla meeting on the complaints against BHEL; and

(b) if so, what steps the official media like PIB, Akashvani and Doordarshan have taken to publicize decisions of the Press Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) It is a fact that at its meeting held on 16-6-1980, the Press Council considered a complaint which had been filed by the Editor of "Urja" against Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Taking note of the fact that the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. themselves intend to review the case of the complainant, the Press Council decided that the matter be allowed to rest at that.

(b) The Council issues its own Press notes after its meetings. These are forwarded to the Media like the PIB, Akashvani and Doordarshan for giving due publicity. It may be added that the above decision was covered in the various news bulletins of Akashvani on 18-6-1980.

Setting up of an Inter-ministerial Committee for monitoring progress of thermal power projects

1260. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Inter-ministerial Committee has been set up to monitor the progress of construction of the on-going thermal power projects;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation and the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have not been able to maintain the delivery schedule of power equipment; and

(d) to what extent formations of the Committee has helped in accelerating the construction of the on-going thermal power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):

(a) Such a Committee has not yet been set up.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As the National Thermal Power Corporation is not a manufacturing organisation, the maintenance of delivery schedule by it does not arise. It is a fact that in some cases it has not been possible for M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. to maintain the delivery schedules for supply of equipment.

(d) Does not arise.

Electricity from Sea-tidal waves

†1261. SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received letters, memorandum and representations and reports from the people of Bhavnagar and Gujarat regarding possibilities for generating electricity from the sea-tidal waves from "Sonaraz" near the sea ports of Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken to develop the sites for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):

(a) to (c) The Government has been receiving suggestions about the need for developing tidal power from the Government of Gujarat.

Preliminary studies had been carried out in the Central Water & Power Commission during 1966 in consultation with the Gujarat authorities for generation of power from tidal waves near Bhavnagar in the Gulf of Cambay utilising the Sonarai creek to form a basin. These studies indicated that a structure of approximately 2500 ft. long at its crest (excluding connecting dykes) if constructed across the mouth of

the Sonarai creek with FRL at plus 33 ft. above the base level would provide a basin with a surge capacity of 1000 million cubic feet. Based on single basin operation, it was estimated that it would be possible to generate about 75 Gwh annually with an installation of 30 MW. The generation would vary from a maximum of 3.4 lakhs Kwh per day to a minimum of .52 lakhs per day, the duration of power generation varying from 6 hrs. during the high tides to one hour during low tides, the average being about 3.7 hrs. per cycle. In view of the limited sub-surface data, no detailed estimates of cost were possible, but rough assessments indicated that the cost of the works would be out of proportion compared to the benefits indicated above.

An UNDP Expert had also visited the country in 1975 to advise on the possibility of development of tidal power. The Gulfs of Kutch and Cambay along the West Coast and the Sunderbans area in West Bengal along the East Coast have been identified as the possible areas where the tidal range is fairly high and where tidal power could be developed.

The main problems with tidal energy relates to the high initial cost, the variable nature of the output and the technical and economical problems involved in firming up this power. To finalise the schemes of development and establish their technical feasibility and economic justification, detailed studies and investigations are required. Investigation and formulation of schemes for tidal power development requires an inter-disciplinary approach involving participation by several organisations. A Coordination Committee was set up in May, 1979 under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to consider further course of action and formulate programme of investigation and studies relating to tidal power development in the country.

†Previously Unstarred Question 1116 transferred from the 27th June, 1980.