

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to curb such activities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Oil and Natural Gas Commission contracts for Oil Exploration abroad

*12. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN: SHRIMATI KUMUDBEN MANISHANKAR JOSHI; SHRI SAT PAUL MITTAL;

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has recently secured some contracts for oil explorations abroad:

(b) if so, what are the details of these contracts; and

(c) what progress has so far been made with regard to the execution of each of these contracts?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Recently, no contract for oil exploration abroad has been secured by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Crude Oil output from Ankleshwar

*13. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to cut down gradually crude output by more than half from Ankleshwar within one year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The crude oil production from Ankleshwar field is planned to be reduced in a phased manner on technical considerations as well as keeping in view the need for conserving Ankleshwar crude for meeting the feed-stock requirements of Indian Petro-chemicals Ltd., Baroda, for a longer period.

Government representatives on the Board of Directors of foreign drug Companies

*14. SHRI BIR CHANDRA DEB BARMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to have their representatives on the Boards of Directors of foreign drug companies; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what steps are being taken for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There is no such proposal at present.

However, in the new drug policy based on the Report of the Committee on Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Industry, (Hathi Committee) the Government have decided as follows: —

"So far as foreign companies engaged only in the manufacture of formulations or bulk drugs not involving high technology or both are concerned, they should be directed to bring down their foreign equity forthwith to 40 per cent, so that 66 per cent of the balance equity currently in the hands of the foreign share-holders is disinvested in favour of Govt, financial or public sector institutions and the rest in