

companies wholly owned by Indians and foreign owned companies operating in India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHANTI BHUSHAN): (a) and (b) This Department has not conducted any formal study of the salary structures of different categories of employees in Public and Private Sectors. However, a comparative study of maximum remuneration in public and private sectors reveals that the remuneration payable to the top executives of Private Sector are substantially higher than those in the Public Sector. In public sector, remuneration of top executives is governed by administrative instructions issued by Bureau of Public Enterprises or the respective State Governments. As per instructions of B.P.E. the salary payable to top executives is restricted to a maximum of Rs. 4,000/ p.m. besides normal benefits of P.E., Gratuity, etc.

In respect of Public Limited Companies and Private Limited Companies which are subsidiaries of Public Companies under the existing guidelines, the Manager/Whole time Directors may be paid a maximum remuneration consisting of a salary of Rs. 7,500 P.M., Commission on net profits upto a maximum of Rs. 45,000 per annum admissible to public sector executives.

Expansion of Cochin phase III Fertiliser Factory

546. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FACT has submitted a feasibility report for the expansion of the Cochin Phase III Fertilizer factory; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) FACT had proposed the expansion of the fertilizer manufacturing facilities at Cochin by setting up additional nitrogenous capacity based on fuel oil as feedstock. This project could not be considered during the Fifth Plan Programme on account of severe constraints on resources, which necessitated shelving of certain projects included in the Plan Programme.

A project at Cochin can only be based on fuel oil as the feedstock. In view of the advantages of the use of gas as fertilizer feedstock, preference is being given for setting up additional fertilizer capacity based on associate gas available from the Bombay High area and Assam. The Cochin project would, therefore, have a low priority and may not qualify for sanction in the near future.

Oil Exploration along the Kerala Coast

547. SHRI S. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 55 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 11th April 1977 and state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has started conducting seismic survey for oil exploration in the coastal area of Kerala; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the places selected for this purpose and what progress has so far been made in the work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b) Seismic surveys were carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Kerala offshore off Kasargod early this year and later in October this year. Reconnaissance surveys have been carried out in the Southern part of