

Take-over of Burmah-Shell and Calrax

21. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA;
SHRI O. P. TYAGI:

SHRI LAXMAN MAHAPATRO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have concluded its negotiations in regard to the take-over of Burmah-Shell and Caltex; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreements reached with the two companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Setting up of Coal-based fertilizer plant* in Tamil Nadu

22. SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of coal-based fertilizer plants in Tamil Nadu in the year 1975; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

23. [Transferred to the 19th November, 1974.]

Collaboration in oil Exploration in Libya

24. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by the Additional Secretary in his Ministry visited Libya in October 1974 to explore possibilities of acquiring a concession in that country for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the visit of the delegation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Preliminary discussions were held by the Delegation with the Libyan authorities regarding the possibility of collaboration in the field of oil exploration. Following these discussions, a Team of ONGC experts visited Libya for further discussions with the Libyan National Oil Company and for evaluating the oil prospects of Libya.

Stocks of drugs and raw materials

25. SHRI GANESH LAL MALI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that huge stocks of drugs and raw materials have lately piled up with the State Trading Corporation and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the circumstances* leading to such a situation; and

^ (c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The excessive stocks are reported to be due to slow lifting of their allocations by the actual users.

(c) The matter has been discussed with the representatives of the drugs and pharmaceutical industry, who have attributed slow lifting to shortage of funds on account of the policy of credit squeeze imposed by the Reserve Bank of India. A meeting was accordingly arranged on 9th October 1974 attended by the representatives of Drugs Industry where the representatives of the Department of Banking indicated that adequate credit could be made available to the concerned units by their bankers if the present credit utilisation and need for further credit was adequately explained. The industry has undertaken to submit a memorandum to the De-