

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such purchase; and

(c) whether arrangements are being made to procure a survey vehicle ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) to (c) The requirements of the ONGC for a drilling platform were quite separate from the need to acquire a survey vessel. Based on the seismic surveys already conducted in the past on a contract basis, it was decided to start drilling exploratory wells in deeper waters in the southern part of the Gulf of Cambay and the adjoining areas of the Arabian Sea, and for this purpose the ONGC acquired a self-propelled, self-elevating, mobile drilling platform from Japan. The first well, with the use of this platform, has been spudded in on the 11th of October, 1973.

2. ONGC has also decided to acquire a fully-equipped seismic ship for intensive seismic surveys of the Indian offshore areas. An order has already been placed with an American firm and the seismic ship is likely to be delivered towards the beginning of 1975.

Shortfall in Fertilizer Production

739. SHRI K.B. CHETTRI:

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI:

SHRI N.R. CHOUDHURY: SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA:

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

(a) what is Government's assessment of shortfall in fertilizer production;

(b) what are the results of the time saving crash programme launched about a year ago; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) According to present indications, a production level of 4.8 million tonnes of nitrogen and 1.250 million tonnes of P₂O₅ is expected to be attained by 1978-79. This may fall short of requirement, as now projected.

(b) and (c) Government have approved in principle the setting up of five new fertilizer plants in the public sector during the Fifth Plan period. These are proposed to be located at Mathura, Panipat, Bhatinda, Paradeep and Trombay. In addition, a few plants are likely to be set up in the private sector for which proposals have been received.

Appointment of High Court Judges from amongst Advocates from outside States

740. SHRI OP. TYAGI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the proposal for appointing the High Court Judges from amongst the Advocates practising outside the States where they are appointed; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE) : (a) and (b) The question of appointing Judges from amongst advocates practising outside the State was considered on a number of occasions in the past. In view, however, of the opposition of the Chief Justices and most of the State Governments and the practical difficulties involved in its implementation, the proposal was dropped.