

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) to (c). The report contains technological data that were made available to the Team in confidence during the course of its visits and discussions at various fertilizer plants outside, it is not, therefore, considered to be in public interest to lay a copy of the report, or the precise recommendations, on the Table of the House. However, as already mentioned in my reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1385 on the 28th August 1972, the information and data collected by the Team are being used to the best advantage in connection with planning and commissioning of fertilizer projects by the Corporation.

OIL EXPLORATION

*284. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:
SHRI S. B. BOBDEY: Shri V.
R. PARASHAR:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press report about the delay in oil exploration programme as mentioned in the Malaviya Committee Report;

(b) whether Government are aware that the outdated technology is responsible for such a delay; and

(c) what are the names of foreign collaborators who have signed agreements with Government for oil exploration upto 30th June, 1972?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE): (a) Various Press reports have been appearing from time to time, about the recommendations of the Malaviya Committee, including those commenting on oil exploration programme of ONGC. It is not known which specific report is being referred to.

(b) It has been the effort of ONGC and Government, within the limitations of the country's resources, to enable the Commission to keep abreast of the latest in

relevant technology in oil exploration. The Commission. has, in recent years, intensified exploration on new structures in explored areas like Gujarat and Assam and also in new areas like Kutch and Tripura. Jammu and Offshore. Thus, there has been no slowing down of the exploration programme. In fact, exploration in the coming five years is proposed to be further intensified by ONGC according to the Variant I of the ONGC—Soviet joint Techno-Economic Feasibility Study of the country's oil and gas resources.

(c) No foreign collaboration, in the sense of equity participation, has been entered into by the Government in recent years. In 1953, the then Standard Vacuum Oil Co. entered into a partnership with the Government of India for exploration in West Bengal basin. The Project was, however, closed and the area relinquished in 1960.

In January, 1958, Government of India entered into another partnership, this time with the Burmah Oil Company and its subsidiary, Assam Oil Company, to create Oil India Limited, which has been conducting exploration and production operations in certain areas in the North-eastern region.

In January, 1965, ONGC entered into a partnership with M/s. National Iranian Oil Company of Iran, Phillips Petroleum Co. of USA and AGIP s.p.a. of Italy to set up a Company for oil exploration and production in an offshore area in Iran.

GODAVARI BARRAGE SCHEME

*285. SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Godavari barrage scheme has been sanctioned;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the scheme;

(c) whether any surcharge is being collected from the ryots and if so, at what rate;

(d) by what time the barrage would be completed; and

(e) the additional estimated ayacut of land that will be brought under irrigation?