

ONGC will also continue to seek pro-raising exploration ventures abroad.

Despite these activities and the resultant increase in production, which cannot be estimated at present, considerable gap might still exist between demand and indigenous production of crude oil by 1980. This would be met through imports.

SUPPLY OF PETROL AND KEROSENE TO BANGLADESH

445. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI CHUNDawat ;
SHRIMATI SITA DEVI ;
SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN ;
SHRI GANESH LAL ;

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

(a) whether India is supplying Petrol and Kerosene Oil to Bangla Desh ; and

(b) if so, the quantity supplied in the last four months and on what terms ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantities of Petrol and Kerosene supplied by the Indian Oil Corporation to Bangladesh during the period 7.3.72 to 12.7.72 are shown below :—

Petrol	...	1756.5 Tonnes
Kerosene	...	23373.1 „

It has been decided to supply a total quantity of one lakh tonnes of petroleum products as an outright grant to Bangladesh. The supplies of Kerosene and Petrol mentioned above were against this grant provision.

NEW TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN BURDWAN AND ASANSOL

446. SHRI KALYAN ROY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state whether Government propose to intro-

duce new train services between Burdwan and Asansol in view of the increasing number of passengers to and from Durgapur industrial belt ; if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD SHAFI QURESHI) : Apart from lack of traffic justification, introduction of additional services between Burdwan and Asansol is also operationally not feasible at Burdwan and Asansol and due to *slow* rated section capacity on Asansol-Burdwan section.

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY INDIAN DRUG MANUFACTURING UNITS

447. SHRI SITARAM KESRI : SHRI NIREN GHOSH : SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that certain foreign pharmaceutical firms have made inroads into the fields of laboratory chemicals under the guise of diversification of their manufacturing activities :

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Drug Manufacturing Units are facing tough competition from the foreign pharmaceutical units; and

(c) if so the steps taken to protect the interest of Indian manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) One drug manufacturing firm (with a foreign equity of more than 50%) took up the manufacture of laboratory chemicals within the framework of the diversification policy, as it then stood. With the change in that policy, the manufacture of these chemicals has been regularised through the issue of a Carrying on Business Licence.

(b) and (c) The foreign firms particularly because of their long standing in the field have an edge over the Indian units