

the field of Electronics, besides Defence R&D work in progress, an Electronic Commission has been set up at the National Level to formulate and coordinate the R&D and Production effort in the field of Electronics.

(vi) The Defence scientists are being given training in the sophisticated areas of Defence technology both within the country and abroad. They are also being attached to the Services for short periods to help them in better understanding of the Users problems. They are given opportunities to attend symposias/seminars in India and abroad to enlarge their horizon of knowledge by exchange of ideas with other scientists working in similar disciplines.

(c) The expenditure on Defence Research and Development is expected to be double in the next five years.

REVOLVING FUND FOR HOUSING

197. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING/निर्माण और आवास मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of India recently created Rs. 200 crores Revolving Fund for house building activities in the country ;

(b) the progress of housing made since the creation of this fund and how much of this fund has already been spent ; and

(c) whether attention of the Government of India in this regard has been invited to a report in the Motherland of the 22nd February, 1971, and reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING/निर्माण और आवास मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The recently constituted Housing and Urban Development Finance Corporation Limited is expected to raise a corpus of Rs. 200 crores over the next few years by raising long term loans from nationalised banks and public financing institutions such as the Unit Trust of India and the Life Insurance Corporation.

(b) Of the various projects received from the State Governments for consideration, the Corporation has so far approved five projects for loan assistance, subject to certain conditions being fulfilled by the State Governments/Housing Boards/Authorities concerned. The projects involve an estimated investment of about Rs. 62 crores with an initial seed capital requirement of Rs. 19.46 crores. Funds, however, have not yet been released against any of these schemes.

(c) Yes. The Board has since been constituted and the first meeting of the regularly constituted Board has also been held on 24th March, 1971.

RISHIKESH ANTIBIOTICS FACTORY

198. SHRI S. C. ANGRE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in May or June 1970 about 7 tonnes of streptomycin bulk was discovered to be having very low potency and that it caused a big loss to the Rishikesh Antibiotics factory ; and

(b) if so, what action if any, was taken against the persons found guilty for the loss to the factory ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI PRAKASHCHAND B. SETHI) : (a) The quantity of streptomycin which failed during June 1970 was 270 kgs (Base) against a gross production of 1631 kgs (Base). There was no failure due to low potency in May 1970.

(b) The problem is under study by a team of specialists drawn from the National Laboratories and Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. as well as plant technologists and Soviet experts.

199. [Transferred to the 7th June, 1971.]

GOVERNMENT'S AGREEMENT WITH BURMAH STEEL, CALTEX AND ESSO

200. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR SANYAL :

SHRI NIREN GHOSH :
SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND

CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री
be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the reported statement of Shri Triguna Sen, former Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals to the effect that the Government's refinery agreements with Burmah shell, Caltex and ESSO were in favour of these companies (as reported in the 'Patriot' dated 16th March, 1971)

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI PRAKASHCHAND B. SETHI) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) and (c) The refinery agreements were concluded with Burmah-Shell, ESSO and Caltex respectively in 1951, 1952 and 1955. A review of the refinery agreements was undertaken in 1959-60. The oil companies concerned agreed as a result of efforts made by Government, to voluntarily surrender the duty concession allowed to them on petroleum products produced at their refineries. The surrender of these concessions earlier than the maximum period of 10 years from the date of commencement of commercial operation or 31.12.1965 whichever be earlier, resulted in augmentation of Government revenues by over Rs. 50 crores total. As we have progressed in these matters certain aspects of the refinery agreements have proved irksome. The Government has constantly under review the working of the refinery agreements with foreign oil companies, in the background of our progress in developing self-sufficiency in both the refining of oil and distribution of petroleum products.

MEDICAL COLLEGE IN KERALA

201. SHRI SALIL KUMAR GANGULY : SHRI MONORANJAN ROY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING/स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under

Government's consideration to open a Medical College in Kerala during the Fourth Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING/स्वास्थ्य और परिवार नियोजन मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI A. K. KISKU) :

(a) No, Sir.

According to the national norm of one Medical College for 5 million population, Kerala with a population of 20 million is not entitled to any new medical college during Fourth Plan period, over and above the four medical colleges already in existence in that State.

(b) Does not arise.

UNUTILISED CAPACITY OF BARAUNI REFINERY

202. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY : SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the one million tonne capacity of Barauni refinery is lying unutilised ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to utilise this unutilised capacity ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS/पेट्रोलियम और रसायन मंत्री (SHRI PRAKASHCHAND B. SETHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The refinery has a design capacity of 3 million tonnes per annum, but receives approximately 2 million tonnes per annum of crude from Assam fields. The third million tonne unit of the Barauni Refinery is idle for want of adequate quantity of crude oil. For transporting the further quantity of crude from ONGC's Assam fields, it was necessary to increase the capacity of OIL's pipe line. To be able to do so it was necessary to secure agreement between OIL and ONGC