

of the Gauhati Refinery from 0.75 million tonnes per year to 1.75 million tonnes per year as the better proposition. After discussion with the Assam Ministers, a further study was made of the comparative investment costs and returns of various alternatives. The Group reported after making these comparative studies, that expansion of the Gauhati refinery was still the more preferable alternative; but on overall considerations, particularly advantages to be derived from the improvement in operation and profitability and increased production of the Sindri Fertilizer Plant with the use of RFC (LSHS) as feed stock will achieve, a separate refinery could be agreed to. On this basis, the Government of Assam has been informed that a grass-root refinery of 1 million tonnes capacity at Bongaigaon could be supported provided the RFO (LSHS) from the refinery is taken to Sindri to be used as feed stock in the fertilizer plant there. The final decision will be taken, taking into consideration the reply of the Government of Assam.

#### **CLOSING DOWN OF THE B.B.C. IN INDIA**

767. SHRI S. S. MARISWAMY:

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of the Foreign Press Correspondents Association in New Delhi has recently protested to the Government of India against the closing down of the BBC and the cancellation of accreditation of their correspondent; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) and

(b) On August 23, 1970 the then President of the Foreign Press Correspondents Association addressed a letter on this subject to the Foreign Minister. Soon after this letter was written, the Association elected a new President and new Executive Committee. This matter has been discussed with them and no further action is necessary.

#### **PAKISTAN BUILD-UP ON RAJASTHAN BORDERS**

768. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: SHRI INDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Pakistan army has recently been building up on the Jaisalmer border of Rajasthan and that a full Infantry Division equipped

with modern weapons has been deployed by Pakistan on the border; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b) While usual military activities like training exercises, construction and improvement of roads and blinkers, etc., continue across the Rajasthan border, there has not been any abnormal movement of Pakistan troops across Jaisalmer border. Government continue to take note of the armed strength of Pakistani Forces across our borders in making our defence arrangements.

#### **SELF-RELIANCE IN OIL RESOURCES**

769. SHRI A. D. MANI:

•SHRI J. S. TILAK:

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:

SHRI T. G. DESHMUKH:

SHRIMATI PUNJAB DESHMUKH: VIMAL

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

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

(a) whether India is drifting into a position of less and less self-reliance in oil;

(b) whether it is a fact that national oil reserves are being repeatedly depleted and no fresh reserves are discovered in any appreciable form; and

(c) if so, how Government propose to meet the impending shortage of oil in the country?

MINISTER OF SLATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) to (c) It will not be correct to conclude that the country is drifting into a position of less and less self-reliance in oil. Oil has been discovered prior to 1965 in about 9 fields in Eastern and Western Regions. Oil production is going on on the basis of optimum oil field practices. Oil fields necessarily contain limited oil reserves. As oil production goes on, the balance of the reserves must necessarily decrease progressively as per schedule. To offset this planned depletion of existing fields, it is necessary to explore for oil in other areas. This is a continuing feature. Subsequent to 1965 oil has been discovered in 10 other fields, but the recoverable reserves in these new areas are comparatively smaller. The gap between the demand for and production of oil in India is large. Indigenous production has, therefore, to be increased and the ONGC is embarking on intensive and extensive exploration work to find new reserves. It has already entered new exploration areas like Gulf of Cambay (offshore),