

REQUIREMENT OF CRUDE AND OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING

94. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI G. R. PATIL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 32 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November, 1969 and state :

(a) the total requirement of crude for power and other uses upto the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan period ;

(b) whether active steps are being taken to undertake off-shore drilling in various places in the country ; and

(c) if so, what is the progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Taking into account the demands of petroleum products for all users, including power consumers, the requirement of crude for refining during the Fourth Five-Year plan period (1969-70 to 1973-74) is estimated at 118 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) : The oil & Natural Gas Commission has decided to drill in the off-shore areas of Gulf of Cambay and the West Coast. In the Gulf of Cambay, construction of a fixed platform and other ancillary works preparatory to the commencement of drilling are well under way and the first offshore well on the first offshore structure is expected to be spudded in March 1970. The commission has also decided to carry out drilling on the Bombay High structure in the Arabian Sea on the basis of assisted owner operation. Negotiations are in progress with certain foreign parties for the assistance required by the Commission .

BIRLA FERTILISER PLANT IN GOA

95. SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA : SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : SHRI CHITTA BASU : SHRI KRISHAN KANT : SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA :

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY :

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :

SHRI U.K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA ;

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY :

SHRI RAM SAHAI :

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA :

SHRI SWAISINGH SISODIA :

SHRI NIREN GHOSH :

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON

SHRI M. R. VENKATARAMAN :

SHRI A. D. MANI :

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

(a) whether an industrial licence has been granted to Birlas to set up a Fertilizer Plant at Goa ;

(b) what are the terms of foreign collaboration allowed for the plant ;

(c) whether it is a fact that decision on this request was pending since 1966 and what were the reasons for the grant of licence to the Birlas now ;

(d) whether the grant of this licence is in accordance with the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 and is consistent with the findings of the Dutt Committee ; and

(e) if the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, whether other business houses have also been benefited by the relaxation in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes,

(b) The project envisages foreign financial and technical collaboration. The foreign collaborators headed by U. S. steel Corporation will contribute to the extent of Rs. 805.50 lakhs towards equity capital of the company which has been formed to implement the project. Besides, the U. S. Steel Corporation will also supply know-how.

(c) The Industrial Licence for establishment of the fertilizer project in Goa was granted in December, 1966. The final clearance of the Government to the financing plan was given in December, 1969.

(d) The Industrial Licence granted is in accordance with the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948. While giving the final clearance to the financing plan, the recommendations of the Dutt Committee were also taken into account.

(e) does not arise.

BANKING COMMISSION

96. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI G. R. PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to change some of the terms of references of the Banking Commission ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are the new terms proposed to be incorporated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (c) The terms of reference of the Banking Commission were announced in Government's Resolution of the 3rd February, 1969. Following the nationalisation of the 14 major Indian commercial banks the situation has changed. Consequently, Government are examining the question to what extent the terms of reference of the Banking Commission need changes. A decision in the matter will be announced as soon as possible.

DEPOSIT MOBILISATION IN BANKING CENTRES

97. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :
SHRI G. R. PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent study made by the Reserve Bank of India on Deposit Mobilisation in Banking centres in certain rural areas particularly crop-areas and if so, what are the findings of that Report : and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to mobilise the deposits from rural agricultural centres ?

M14RS/70-3

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Economic Department of the Reserve Bank of India conducted a study of inter-district comparison of agricultural development and spread of banking facilities in the rural areas sometime ago. The study was essentially of an exploratory nature and was intended to provide useful background material to the commercial banks for the selection of the areas/centres for opening new branches. On the basis of a number of selected indicators, about 300 districts from 16 States/Union Territories in the country were ranked according to their level of agricultural development and also according to the spread of banking facilities. Juxtaposing the ranking of districts according to the level of agricultural development with that according to spread of banking facilities in the rural areas, it was found that a number of districts which are relatively more developed agriculturally do not appear to be served by adequate banking facilities. The report has been published in the Reserve Bank of India Bulletin for October, 1969, copies of which are available in the Library of Parliament.

(b) In order to step up deposit mobilisation in the rural areas it is intended to launch a massive programme of branch expansion by the nationalised banks. As part of this programme, the Reserve Bank has already drawn up a comprehensive branch expansion programme for 1970 under which a minimum target of 1200 centres has been set for the major commercial banks. Of these at least 600 (including 400 in the unbanked centres many of which are in the rural areas) are to be set up in the first half of 1970. The Reserve Bank of India has also nominated one or more major banks to act as the "Lead Bank" for each of the 335 districts of the Indian Union excluding the metropolitan towns of Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras and the Union territories of Chandigarh, Delhi and Goa. It will be the duty of the "Lead Banks" to carry out a survey of the resources banking potential and credit needs of the district and to chalk out a programme of opening branches to meet the credit gaps. It is expected that this programme will, within the next few years, lead to massive deposit mobilisation in the rural areas.