

LAWLESSNESS IN COAL MINING AREA OF RANIGANJ

1426. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lawlessness in the coal mining areas of Raniganj in West Bengal is hampering the production and affecting adversely the economy of the coal industry ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI JAGANNATH RAO) :

(a) and (b) There have been reports about acute inter-union rivalry in coal mining areas in Raniganj in West Bengal, resulting in violent clashes between rival unions. Such clashes raise law and order problems, where effective action can only be taken by the State Government. The incidents and their adverse repercussions on production and safety of workers have already been brought to the notice of the State Government on a number of occasions urging the need for adequate and prompt remedial measures.

WITHHELD LICENCE TO ONGC TO PRODUCE CRUDE IN ASSAM

1427. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam have withheld licence to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission to produce crude struck in Galeki in upper Assam; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The ONGC applied for Petroleum Exploration Licence in May, 1967. Although it was not formally granted, the exploratory drilling was started in January, 1968 after duly informing the State Government. The requisite fees for the licence have been paid regularly to the State

Government and accepted by them with" out objection. The first well having been found to be a producer, the Commission has now applied for a Mining Lease in December, 1969, and the Government has been requested for granting working permission for trial production in January, 1970. The requisite fees in this context have also been accepted by the State Government.

The State Government have since accorded working permission to ONGC pending consideration and issue of the Petroleum Exploration Licence.

CONFERENCE OF PETROLEUM EXPERTS AND GEOLOGIST TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CRUDE

1428. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a conference of Petroleum Experts and Geologists was held recently in Assam to consider ways and means to increase the indigenous production of crude to meet the rising demands in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the suggestions/recommendations made at the conference ; and

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government on the recommendations/ suggestions made at the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) The third Indian Petroleum Conference was held on the 15th February, 1970 at Duliajan in Upper Assam. Ways and means to increase indigenous production of crude to meet the rising demand in the country was not specifically discussed at this conference. These conferences are held each year and relate to petroleum exploration and production and are primarily meant to exchange views on scientific issues between petroleum technologists of the ONGC, Oil India Ltd., and Assam Oil Co.

About 58 papers were presented at the Conference which covered such varying subjects as reservoir geology, geochemistry geophysics, reservoir engineering, production engineering, import substitution, drilling, etc.