

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

CIRCULAR ROAD IN D AND E BLOCKS OF KIDWAI NAGAR

\*491. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR : Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 294 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1968 and state :

(a) when the work for the construction of the circular road around Blocks D and E, Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi is likely to be started; and

(b) how much time it will take to complete the road?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SARDAR IQBAL SINGH) : (a) Preliminary estimate for this work has been finalised and the work is likely to be taken up early next year.

(b) About three months from the date the work is started.

PRICES AND D.A.

1006. SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government so far to keep the prices and the living costs within reasonable limits instead of increasing the Dearness Allowance to Government servants after the rise in prices?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI) : It is a constant endeavour of Government to maintain stability of the price level. Towards that end, Government has taken various measures to stimulate agricultural and industrial production. Efforts are also made to arrange imports of essential commodities to augment domestic supplies to the extent feasible, and to arrange proper distribution through public channels. Fiscal and monetary policies are applied to curb inflationary pressures. To regulate prices and distribution of essential

commodities ample powers have been delegated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to State Governments and Union Territories.

PRODUCTION OF CRUDE

1007. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) what measures have so far been taken or are proposed to be taken to step up the present production of 5.7 million tonnes of Crude Oil to 10 million tonnes in order to bridge the gap of 8.7 million tonnes imported last year at a cost of Rs. 85 crores;

(b) how long would it take to attain the target of 1 million tonnes; and

(c) what priority has been fixed to achieve this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH) : (a) Oil India Ltd. is undertaking exploration drilling work in the Dum Duma and Ningru areas. The Oil & Natural Gas Commission has undertaken exploration work in most of the States of India and at present is deploying 16 geological parties, 25 seismic parties including one offshore seismic party and 10 gravity magnetic parties. Besides, exploratory drilling is being conducted in a number of States. While a number of promising oil bearing areas are no doubt in evidence, it is too early to assess the quantum of additional crude oil that could be developed and produced.

(b) By 1972, it is hoped to attain a production rate of 10 million tonnes/year.

(c) Exploration and production of crude oil has been included in the category of key industries. For such industries funds required are provided on a priority basis.

COSTLY EQUIPMENTS LYING IN THE OPEN IN CENTRAL DEPOT IN ASSAM

1008. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :