

liability for special pension. Proposals to implement these recommendations are under consideration.

#### FACTORIES PRODUCING SODA ASH

\*379. SHRI K. C. BAGHEL; Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of factories in India (State-wise) which are producing Soda Ash along with their annual production for the last three years;

(b) what is the ex-factory and the market price per quintal;

(c) whether the difference in the prices is not too high and if so, what action do Government propose to take to reduce the same; and

(d) whether the production is sufficient to meet the increasing requirements of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No reports have been received about the high prices of Soda Ash. It has been declared as an Essential Commodity under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and State Governments are competent to take appropriate action under the powers delegated to them under the said Act to hold the price line.

(d) Yes, Sir. Current year's production is expected to be just sufficient to meet the country's demand. Fourth Plan production target of 600,000 tonnes which was already been covered by issue of industrial licences and letters of intent aims at self-sufficiency.

#### STATEMENT

(i) The names of Factories in India (State-wise) which are producing soda ash and their annual production for the years 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66 and (ii) the ex-factory and market prices of soda ash

Name of Factory	(i) Production			(ii) Ex-Factory price		Market price	
	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	(Rs. per quintal)			
	(in '000 tonnes)			Light	Heavy		
Gujarat—							
1. Tata Chemicals, Mithapur	138	147	162	43.50	45.50	Varies from place to place depend- ing on freight, handling and other incidental charges.	
2. Saurashtra Che- micals, Porbandar	78	80	108	44.50	47.00		
3. Dhrangadhra Chemicals, Dhrangadhra	44	40	43	44.50	..		
Uttar Pradesh—							
Sahu Chemicals, Varanasi	14	14	18	45.00	..		

#### SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN OIL

\*520. SHRI M. S. OBEROI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned certain concrete measures to attain self-sufficiency in the oil industry of the country and to fully exploit oil resources and designing and engineering and the refining capacity of the oil refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the measures devised and how they are being implemented?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V ALAGESAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

*The following provisions have been made in the Fourth Five Year Plan*

(Rs. crores)

1. O.N.G.C.	227.00
2. Oil India Limited	16.09
3. Barauni, Koyali and Cochin refineries	5.30
4. Madras Refinery	35.00
5. Haldia Refinery	39.20
6. North-West Refinery	10.00
7. Lube India Limited	9.13
8. Another Lube Plant at west Coast	5.00
9. Oil Distribution and pipelines	69.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>425.86</b>

2. The provisions in respect of O.N.G.C. and Oil India are towards intensifying their activities for exploration and production of oil within the country.

3. With the refineries as mentioned in items 3 to 7 above, the total installed refining capacities at the end of the Fourth Plan are likely to be about 22.00 million tonnes per annum.

4. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (Refineries Division) have a Central Design Organisation for designing and engineering refineries to a limited extent. A public sector company (Engineers India Limited) has been set up to undertake the design, engineering and construction of refineries and connected projects.

#### CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF N.R.D.C.

•521. SHRI P. N. KATHJU: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the present Chair-of the Board of Directors of the National Research Development Corporation; and

(b) whether he was appointed as such by virtue of his holding a senior post in Government service, and if so, what was the post held by him?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Dr. S. Husain Zaheer.

(b) No, Sir.

#### OFFICE HOURS AND SATURDAY OFFS

629. SHRI D. THENGARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry is considering a proposal for reducing the current office hours by half an hour;

(b) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is also proposing to declare alternate Saturdays as holidays for the Government of India offices; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) to (c) The general question of holidays and office hours to be observed in the civil offices of the Government of India, including whether offices should be closed on two Saturdays in a month, is under consideration.

#### BASIC TEACHERS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

630. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any estimate of the requirement of trained basic teachers for 're-orienting' the existing elementary schools, to the desired basic pattern; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and to what extent and in what manner Government propose to meet this re-