

UTILISATION OF BYE-PRODUCTS OF OIL REFINERIES

*160. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND FUEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and other bye-products of the oil refineries in India are not being utilised at present; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to see that chemical use is made of those bye-products?

THE MINISTER OF MINES AND OIL (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) These are being utilised by the refineries to the extent practicable.

(b) Utilisation of refinery gas for a fertilizer project is under consideration.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it a fact that these refineries refuse to give to a national concern some of these bye-products, waste gases, for the production of fertilizers?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: No, Sir. As I said, the matter is being considered. There is no question of refusal. There are certain technical and economic aspects of the whole question which must be agreed upon before such an exploitation of gas can be a possibility. The fact is that there is very little quantity of gas produced there. Part of it is burnt as safety flame to indicate the health of the refinery plant, so far as its physical conditions are concerned; and part of it is being utilised to be burnt as fuel because if we do not burn it, then something more dear has to be burnt.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Has the Government initiated any general study of the possible use of these by-products and the potential markets therefor?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir. We have made a study. We have got some idea about it. As I said, a very little quantity is produced in this refinery and the quality also is not of

such an attractive type that we can think of a lot of schemes about it.

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA SHARMA: How is the gas from the Digboi Oil Refinery of the A.O.C. being utilised at the present moment?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am not aware of the way the Digboi Oil Refinery gas is used. I shall require notice.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the hon. Minister tell us as to whether it is a fact that the Caltex Oil Refinery at Vizag was approached by an industrialist in Andhra for exploiting the gas for the manufacture of fertilisers in the private sector? If so, has the company rejected the offer? Has the matter been taken up for investigation by the Government?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I do not know whether it has been rejected or not, but, as I said, the question of having a fertiliser factory is under consideration.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it not a fact that the I.C.I. which has monopoly so far as the fertilisers are concerned, has prevailed upon these oil refineries not to sell this waste gas to the Indian concerns but to burn it themselves so that the prices may not be reduced by the Indian manufactured fertilisers coming in the market?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I am not aware of such an advice given by the I.C.I.

SHRI V. PRASAD RAO: Is it not a fact that the expert recommended that a fertiliser factory could be located in Bombay but that it could not be taken up because of the fact that the refineries had refused to give the gas?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: As I said, Sir, it is not a question of refusal. They are examining this question in the light of the difficulties, technical and economic. They never refused it.

SHRI PRASAD RAO: Are they financial difficulties, technical difficulties or political difficulties?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: There is no political difficulty. The difficulties are all economic and technical.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: May I know since when this matter is under the consideration of the Government and the oil refineries?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: I cannot give the exact date but it has been under consideration for some time.

SHRI N. M. LINGAM: May I know whether bitumen is not one of the bye-products and whether that is not being saved for purposes of road construction?

SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA: Yes, Sir, bitumen is one of the bye-products which is being produced.

FREE RESIDENTIAL QUARTERS FOR WOMEN TEACHERS

*161. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state the names of the States which have so far taken advantage of the Union Government's scheme to give grant for the provision of free residential quarters for women teachers?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (DR. K. L. SHRIMALI): 1957-58—Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal;

1958-59 (to-date)—West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA IYER: May I know the reasons why the States are so chary of taking these grants?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: This is a question which should really be put to the State Governments. All that we can do is to draw their repeated attention to taking advantage of this offer.

SHRI B. P. BASAPPA SHETTY: May I know whether the Central Government has fixed any quota?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: We pay 75 per cent. of the cost of the scheme.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN: May I know whether these grants are meant for the rural areas or are meant also for the urban areas?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: It is primarily meant for the rural areas.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What is the basis of these grants? Is the whole expenditure met by grants given by the Centre or is some percentage to be paid by the States also?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I have already said, Sir, that 75 per cent. of the cost is met by the Central Government.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: How much money have been paid to Madhya Pradesh for this scheme?

DR. K. L. SHRIMALI: I am afraid I cannot give the break-up.

THEFTS AT ORDNANCE FACTORY, MURADNAGAR

*162. SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of thefts which occurred at Ordnance Factory, Muradnagar, during the years 1955, 1956 and 1957 and the amount of loss which resulted therefrom; and

(b) the action since taken to stop such recurrences in future?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH):

(a) A total of four thefts occurred during the years 1955, 1956 and 1957,