

**THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI)**: (a) and (b). Section 44(1) of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 precludes the State Bank from disclosing information relating to the affairs of its individual constituents, as it would be against the practice and usage customary among bankers. As such the information sought for cannot be disclosed.

(c) After the closure of the Mills in September, 1966, the State Bank has obtained additional collateral security to cover the amounts due to the Bank from the Mills. The Company has also agreed to pay the value of stocks pledged with the Bank before they are cleared for processing and sale. It is expected that the outstanding amounts will be progressively reduced and ultimately liquidated.

#### TAWA PROJECT

3397. **SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY**: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 8795 on the 10th August, 1967 and state:

(a) whether the amount of assistance to be given for Tawa Project has since been finalised;

(b) if so, the extent of assistance to be given in 1968-69; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, the time by which it would be taken?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO)**: (a) to (c). The question of giving earmarked loan assistance for the Tawa Project is under consideration. It is expected to be finalised shortly.

#### PRICES OF NATURAL GAS

3398. **SHRI PASHABHAI PATEL**: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative well-head production costs and selling prices for natural gas from oil wells in Assam and Gujarat;

(b) whether Government propose to create zones for natural gas and oil and restrict its distribution on the same lines as the food zones; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI RAGHURAMIAH)**: (a) Natural gas in commercial quantities is being produced in Assam by Oil India Limited and in Gujarat by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. Production costs vary from place to place depending on the geological formation of the structure, the nature of the gas (i.e. whether associated or free), the quantity of gas produced and the period of depreciation and amortisation. As these factors are not identical or comparable in the two cases, it is not possible to give comparative figures of production costs in Assam and Gujarat.

The price of natural gas sold by Oil India Ltd. in Assam varies from Rs. 8.77 per 1000 cubic metres to Rs. 52.62 per 1000 cubic metres ex-field. The price of gas produced by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission in Gujarat has been fixed by the Arbitrator at Rs. 56.00 per 1000 cubic metres ex-field.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The areas in which natural gas can be economically transported and distributed depend upon the quantity produced, the nature and extent of the demand and the availability of alternative fuels or feedstocks. The total effect of these factors is to limit the utilisation to areas of economic supply. In the case of crude oil, however, the location of the refineries is the actor that determines its distribution and the diverse means of transportation available give greater flexibility to areas of utilisation.

#### PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX IN ASSAM

3399. **SHRI MAYAVAN :  
SHRI DHIRESWAR KALITA :  
SHRI SARJOO PANDEY :**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan has agreed to offer aid for setting up a petro-chemical complex in Assam;

(b) if so, the aid offered by Japan;

(c) when the work on the project is likely to start.

(d) the total expenditure involved in the project; and