

**Supply of Gas to Vijjeswaram Power Station**

depend upon the prospects of increased availability of gas.

[*Translation*]

**Sunflower Cultivation**

2436. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

2438. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adequate quantity of gas is being supplied to Vijjeswaram Power Station;

(a) the area under sunflower cultivation during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken proposed to be taken in this regard?

(b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the area under sunflower cultivation;

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Currently, on the average, 0.42 MMSCMD of gas has been supplied, against an allocation of 0.40 MMSCMD.

(c) whether research work is being carried out to increase the production of sunflower in the country; and

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) If so, the progress made so far in this regard?

**Allocation of Gas to Maharashtra**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Statement enclosed.

2437. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(b) The Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) provides financial assistance for items like seeds, plant protection sprinkler sets, farm implements, gypsums/pyrites to increase area under sunflower cultivation.

(a) the present allocation of natural gas from Bombay High to Maharashtra;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the allocation for Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir, the research work is carried out to develop varieties with high yield potential, high oil content, resistance to downy mildew, and early maturing to fit into the multiple crop sequences. As a result of concerted research efforts, a number of improved varieties and hybrids have been evolved.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Over 18 MMSCMD.

(b) and (c). Increased allocation would