

(a) the estimated reserves of gas available in Bombay High ;

(b) the total quantity of it being used by the fertilizer industry;

(c) the percentage of the remaining gas proposed to be given to other State Governments, the details thereof; and

(d) the total investment for this project and how much will be shared by the Union Government and how much by the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) The balance recoverable reserves in the offshore fields as on 1.1.84 were 378 billion cubic metres.

(b) The total quantity of Bombay High gas being used by the fertilizer industry is 5.10 million cubic metres per day.

(c) About 0.40 million cubic metres of gas per day is committed to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. About 0.05 million cubic metres per day is committed to the Bharat Electronics Limited at Talaja. About 0.15 million cubic metres of gas per day is committed to the Heavy Water Plant at Thal. With these, balance gas is not available for further commitments.

(d) Does not arise.

Expansion of Telecommunication Net Work

1143. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to give top priority to telepome network expansion;

(b) the Seventh Plan allocation for this sector;

(c) whether telex connection would be provided practically on demand by the end of 1990 ;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce GIRO FACILITY in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The need for adequate expansion of Telecommunication net work has been emphasized in the 7th Five Year Plan proposals.

(b) This is still under consideration of the Planning Commission.

(c) This would depend on the final plan allocation.

(d) and (e) . The case for introduction of GIRO facility as a postal function in India is under active consideration.

Fall in Production of Life-Saving Drugs

1144. SHRI M.MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that production of numerous life-saving drugs in the country has almost come to a halt resulting in short supply of a large number of basic drugs and threatening closure of drug manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for fall in the production of life-saving drugs; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) to (c) . Production of some bulk drugs was affected because of inadequate availability of concentrated Nitric Acid and Industrial Alcohol.

One stream of the Nitric Acid Plants of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Limited (RCF) had to be closed down due to objection from the State Government from the pollution angle. Following reports of shortage of concentrated Nitric Acid, the position was reviewed. RCF have been advised to ensure adequate availability of concentrated Nitric Acid to priority users like bulk drug manufacturers.

Imports of alcohol based intermediates are being allowed wherever necessary.