

garding the incident was received from the authorities concerned on 21-1-1979. A news item also appeared on 22-1-79.

(b) The case is under investigation and necessary action, if any, will be taken after receipt of final report in the matter.

(c) Detailed instructions on the prevention of food poisoning already exist. The authorities have been instructed to enforce these instructions strictly.

Setting up of Autonomous Radio and Television Unit

139. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:
SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a policy decision to set up an autonomous Radio and Television Unit, based broadly on the recommendations of the Verghese Panel's Report on the said subject;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to introduce during this Budget Session a Bill to this effect; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (c). The Report of the Working Group on Autonomy for Akashvani and Doordarshan is under consideration. A Bill on the future set-up of Akashvani and Doordarshan is likely to be introduced in the Budget Session.

Supply of Bombay High Gas to Gujarat

140. PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have accelerated the steps to provide "Bom-

bay High" gas to the industrial units in Southern and Central Gujarat;

(b) if so, how and when;

(c) if not, why not;

(d) whether Government are aware that quite a few industries are compelled to be shifted to Bombay and elsewhere in Maharashtra, even though the said industries were originally located and sought to be started in Gujarat because of the lack of supply of Bombay High gas in time; and

(e) if so, how are Government tackling and responding to the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) A feasibility study on the gas pipeline to Gujarat had been made by ONGC. It further took up additional oceanographic and seabed investigations for exploring an alternate route to a landfall point in Gujarat. A report along with views of ONGC has been received by Government in January 1979.

However, since the conducting of the studies/investigations by ONGC, the outlook for the availability of offshore gas has changed considerably for the better as a result of a significant gas strike, North of North Bassein structure and the likelihood of larger reserves in the South Bassein gas field. The estimation of ONGC is that free gas availability would now be much larger than earlier estimated. A firm assessment of gas supplies is being made by ONGC by drilling more wells and a clear picture is likely to emerge by March 1979. On knowing the precise estimates of gas supplies, a review of the sizing and route of the pipeline will be made by ONGC and thereafter a further report will be submitted to Government.

On receipt of this report, a view on the economics, location, time-schedule of completion etc. of the pipeline to