

**Supply of Gas to Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers Company**

1073. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had agreed at a meeting with the Gujarat Chief Minister and others held at Ahmedabad on September 28, 1978 to supply gas on a temporary basis to the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertiliser Company which is under consideration;

(b) if so, whether this assurance has been conveyed to the State Government; and

(c) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**L. Base Licence to M/s. Boehringer Knoll Ltd.**

1074. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1240 on 25th July, 1978 regarding L. Base licence to M/s. Boehringer Knoll Ltd., and state:

(a) whether Government has made an enquiry into the matter; and

(b) Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Yes, Sir. The reply from M/s. Boehringer Knoll Ltd., explaining the circumstances in which they used imported L-Base for the manufacture of Chloramphenicol has been received. The

matter has been examined in detail and it has been observed that the Industrial Licence issued to this party for the manufacture of Chloramphenicol does not lay down any specific condition regarding the stage from which manufacture of Chloramphenicol was to be commenced.

(b) As per the opinion of the Law Ministry taken in another case, even if a specific condition as to the stage of manufacture had been imposed in the Licence under consideration, and they had violated it, such violation would not, as the I (D & R) Act stands today, be punishable. The matter was also taken up with the Department of Industrial Development and they have stated that suitable amendments to the I (D & R) Act are on hand to provide for punishment of violation of the terms and conditions of Industrial Licences.

**Fests of Producer Grade-I in Doordarshan**

1075. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state;

(a) whether seven posts of producer grade I sanctioned in 1968 in the Doordarshan have been filled by professionals; and

(b) the plans to provide proper office accommodation to Doordarshan artists?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) There were no posts of Producer Grade I in 1968. Three posts of Producer Grade I were sanctioned in 1973, one each for Upgraha Doordarshan Kendras at Delhi, Cuttack and Hyderabad. These posts have not yet been filled.

(b) There is a general shortage of accommodation in Doordarshan centres.

Efforts are being made to meet these requirements. Adequate accommodation is, however, being provided in newly built buildings like those at Madras and Jullundur.

#### Progress in Steel Plant at Visakhapatnam

1076. SHRI G. S. REDDI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the construction and erection of a steel plant at Visakhapatnam; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The actual construction and erection of the steel plant at Visakhapatnam will start only after the necessary financial and technical details have been finalised and an Investment decision taken. Meanwhile, certain surveys, preliminary studies, investigations and other works have been taken up and completed and an expenditure of about Rs. 5 crores has been incurred so far on these works.

#### Improvement in Capacity Utilisation of Coal Washeries

1077. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal washeries which have improved their capacity utilisation during the last two years;

(b) particulars of step-up, if any, in the quality of the washed coal; and

(c) the reasons why Steel Plants are reduced to a position of securing imported coal despite the existence of so many washeries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) There was a marginal shortfall in the capacity utilisation of the coal washeries

during April-December, 1978 as compared to the performance in the corresponding period of last year, which was mainly due to a number of production constraints including rains and floods in September, 1978 which the coal industry had to face during this period.

(b) There had been no step up in the quality of the washed coal produced in the current year so far which was more or less the same as that for the last year.

(c) The coking coal is being imported for the following main reasons:—

(i) to conserve the limited indigenous reserves of coking coal for use over a longer span of time;

(ii) to supplement the indigenous availability of coal qualitatively to improve the performance of the steel Plants;

(iii) to improve the production and productivity of blast furnaces by using high grade low ash coke to evaluate the techno-economic advantages of such use.

#### Import of Aluminium Rods

1078. SHRI AMRIT NAHATA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Ministry of Steel and Mines are importing aluminium rods;

(b) whether a lot of foreign exchange would be saved and a large idle indigenous property capacity could be utilised if aluminium ingots were to be imported in place of rods; and

(c) whether the Finance Ministry has been approached to take a rational attitude in the matter of escalating effect of duty incidence in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.