

**Resumption of drilling on Off-shore and On-shore at Narsapur**

3348. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the real implications involved in delaying the resumption of off-shore and on-shore drilling operation at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) whether he proposes to visit the place personally?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No delay has occurred in the resumption of onshore and offshore drilling operations at Narsapur in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Minister (PC&F) may visit Narsapur sometime in the latter part of 1980.

**Reduction in High Court Fees**

3349. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had observed, during the centenary celebrations of the Kakinada Courts on June 14, 1980, that the court fees in India were too high and needed to be reduced drastically;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Government to abolish totally or reduce the same in order to benefit the poor litigants; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) While inaugurating the centenary celebrations of the Kakinada courts, I had observed *inter alia* that the

court fees were generally high and needed to be reconsidered.

(b) and (c). Court fees levied in courts in States (i.e. other than the Supreme Court and courts in Union territories) are a matter within the exclusive jurisdiction of the State Governments. The suggestion of the Law Commission that court fees may be abolished or reduced was taken up with the State Governments in 1975, but none of them were agreeable to reduce the court fees mainly on the ground of financial stringency. In the recent meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, the consensus was that a small Sub-Committee comprising a few members of the Consultative Committee should be set up to go into this question and make concrete suggestions in respect of the items on which court fees should be levied in the trial courts, the rates on which it should be levied, the items on which it should be abolished, the measures required in this context to discourage litigation, and the category of litigants who should be exempt from paying the court fees. The Government would take further appropriate action after this Sub-Committee has given its recommendations in this regard and would take up the matter with the States.

**Reasons for less Hydel generation of D.V.C. power system**

3350. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for comparatively less hydel generation of the DVC Power system during the year 1978-79 than that of the previous year;

(b) whether it was due to break down of the Panchet Hydel station;

(c) nature of break down; and