

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI D. P. CHATTOPADH-YAYA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Two contraceptive have recently been developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. The details are as under :—

(1) Centchromane (67/20) : This is a new oral non-storpidal antifertility agent. It is in the form of a pill to be taken in a single dose by the woman within four days of sexual intercourse. The compound is reported to have given immediately 100% prevention of conception in rats, dogs and monkeys. The antifertility effect is reversible as shown on rats. Studies on monkeys and rats have shown the drug to be non-toxic. The Pharmacology of the drug on human beings is under study at the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.

(2) *Centrasquare* : This is a contraceptive film to be used locally in the vagina. The active ingredient is urea which is found to be spermicidal and without any local adverse effects. The clinical trials with this method have just started in a few selected Family Welfare Planning Centres at Lucknow and in Delhi.

Loss to O. N. G. C. in drilling deal with an Italian firm

4563. **SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission have suffered a loss of Rs. 5 crores in the drilling deal with Italian firm since the contract was awarded to that firm ;

(b) whether no global tenders were called for to award the contract at that time ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government propose to take any action against the person responsible ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) to (d). In the year 1961 a large credit was made available by ENI of Italy, an organisation owned by the Government of Italy, to the Government of India to develop Indo-Italian co-operation in the petroleum sector. Out of this credit,

certain amounts had been allocated for contract drilling. Only the companies of the ENI group were eligible for the award of contracts under this credit. As SNAM was the only drilling company in the ENI group, it was the only company eligible for the award of the drilling contract. The necessity for calling global tenders did not arise.

2. In December 1962 and in May 1963, ONGC concluded two contracts for drilling very deep wells in Bihar and U. P. under the December 1962 contract and in the Punjab under the May 1963 contract. Under these contracts drilling was carried out during the period October 1953-May, 1965 in Bihar and UP and during October 1964 and September 1966 in the Punjab. Under the first contract two wells were drilled, one at Raxaul in Bihar and one at Mohand in UP. Under the 1963 contract, two wells were drilled at Janauri and Bahi. All the wells proved dry. The invoices for work and services totalled \$ 24,19,053 93 plus Rs. 68, 17,476 00 for drilling under the first contract (Bihar/UP) and \$ 25,01,886 09 plus Rs. 66, 34,059.89 for drilling in the Punjab.

3. On perusal of a report in one of the newspapers, the CVC and CVI had taken cognisance of the case. On receipt of the factual report from Oil Natural Gas Commission according to information with Government, they did not pursue the case further. The question of Govt. taking further action did not arise.

Allotment of land to Military personnel on the Meerut-Mewana Road (U. P.)

4564. **SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether land was allotted to military-personnel by his Ministry under colonisation Scheme on the Meerut-Mewana Road, District Merrut (Uttar Pradesh) ;

(b) if so, the number of military personnel who were allotted land there ;

(c) whether Government have given possession to all the allottees ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.