

a manner so as to achieve a production rate of 8.42 million tonnes during 1978-79 (as against slightly over 4 million tonnes at present).

Similarly, the Oil India Limited, which operates in the Eastern region, has also drawn up a long-term programme for intensifying its exploration operations. As a part of this, it proposes to drill during the coming years, 11 wells in Assam and 5 wells in Arunachal Pradesh with a total depth of 192,500 ft. This is apart from the substantial amount of drilling which it would be conducting in its other mining lease areas.

Supreme Court's Observation on Article 31-C of the Constitution

1265. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have studied the implication of the recent Supreme Court Pronouncement on Article 31-C of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the difficulties created by the Supreme Court's observation on the Article?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not so far taken any decision in the matter.

Assistance to West Bengal for Rural Electrification

1266. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial aid given to West Bengal for rural electrification programme in the last three years; and

(b) the progress so far made by the State in implementing the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) and (b). The programme for rural electrification is formulated by State Governments and is executed by them through their respective State Electricity Boards. From the commencement of the 4th Plan, central assistance to State Governments for Plan Schemes is not related to any scheme but is given in the form of block loans and grants. The Rural Electrification Corporation which has been set up in the Central Sector provides additive finances for implementation of rural electrification scheme of State Electricity Board. The Rural Electrification Corporation has sanctioned the following assistance to West Bengal State Electricity Board during the last three years:

Year	Amount of loan sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Coverage Villages Pumpsets	
1970-71	313.90	1172	5109
1971-72	872.77	2213	7675
1972-73	957.24	2126	8554
	2143.90	5511	21388

These schemes are phased for completion in a period of 3 to 5 years and are at various stages of implementation.

4115 villages have been electrified and 549 pumpsets energised in West Bengal during the 4th Plan upto 31st May, 1973 as against 2433 villages electrified and 1199 pumpsets energised at the commencement of the 4th Plan. The percentage of village electrified in this State has now risen to 16.1 per cent as against 6.9 per cent at the beginning of the 4th Plan.

Loss Suffered by ONGC and Gujarat Refinery Due to Failure of Power Supply

1267. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recurring failure in power supply during the month of June, 1973 from Tarapur and Dhuvaran has