

with them. Opportunity was also taken during these discussions to briefly review the official level discussions held earlier on different multi-purpose projects such as Karnali, Pancheshwar etc. Both sides emphasised the need for further extension of mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation in the area of water resources development.

Allocation of Diesel to Madhya Pradesh

221. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is total amount of diesel allotted to Madhya Pradesh between January and December, 1980; and

(b) how does it compare with allocations in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) A quantity of about 4.45 lakh tonnes of High Speed Diesel (HSD) was allotted to Madhya Pradesh between January and December, 1980.

(b) The system of monthly allocations of diesel was started only with effect from October, 1979. The total allocation of diesel in 1980 for Madhya Pradesh was about 4,45,000 tonnes against sales of about 4,03,000 tonnes in 1979.

Joint Oil Exploration Work by India and U.S.S.R.

*222. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA RATH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil exploration work has been launched by India and Soviet Union jointly in our country;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed between both the countries for carrying such oil exploration work;

(c) the places in our country where such exploration works are going on;

(d) whether Government have any fresh proposal to have talks with Soviet Union for expanding such exploration programme; and

(e) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Presently one Soviet-Indian team is drilling the Rokhia exploratory well in Tripura.

(d) and (e). In accordance with the agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation signed on 10th December, 1980 the Soviet Side would render cooperation to the Indian Side in execution in one of the promising onshore areas in India of integrated work for oil and gas including geophysical exploration and drilling works, elaboration of basic technical concepts of development of the deposit and the installation of production facilities. The area will be chosen by mutual agreement between the Indian and Soviet Sides.

Visit by a French Consultancy Company to Bombay High

*223. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI;

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a French Consultancy Company has visited Bombay High to study the possibility of increasing India's oil production;

(b) if so, details of the company's proposal to Government in this regard; and

(c) reaction of Government to it?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. During the periodic consultations which the