

we create new capacities, the shortage of steel will be there continuously. (Interruptions) Many categories of steel are required. We have no extra capacity. There is black-market for anything for which there is a shortage, whether it is steel or cement. (Interruptions) This has to be considered. If there is a blackmarket, we propose to mop up a hit from the market to create the capital for the building up of the steel plant and things like that are under the consideration of the Government. We have to raise resources, we have to put up steel plant if we are to meet our requirements in the coming decade and I am fully conscious of it and I shall bring forward the proposals before the Parliament very soon.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANARANGAM: The hon. Minister has stated that the recommendations of the Committee are awaited, and that the location and all these things pertaining to the starting of the gigantic steel industries will be intimated very shortly after they get the recommendations of the Committee. Is there in the mind of the Government or at least in the mind of the Minister, a list containing the places which he is going to examine and what are the places where actually he wants to start the gigantic industries

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: North, South, East and West, if that is of any use to the hon. Member; basically shore-based plants to cut the cost and also relieve the railway transport difficulty. As far as the other things are concerned, when I shall deliver indigenous steel throughout the country depends on the mobilisation of resources, credits, internally and externally and our ability to build plants as fast as possible.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय : मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या यह सही है कि हमारे वर्तमान स्थापित इस्पात संयंत्रों की पूर्ण क्षमता का उपयोग नहीं हो रहा है, वह पूरी क्षमता से उत्पादन नहीं कर रहे हैं ? क्या यह भी सही है कि इन संयंत्रों के विस्तार की प्राथमिक योजना है ? यदि है, तो कब तक इस कार्य

को पूरा कर लेंगे ? क्या यह सचब नहीं है कि उनकी क्षमता का पूरा उपयोग कर के बिना किसी विदेशी सहायता के हम उत्पादन बढ़ा सकें ?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: It is true that the existing capacity is not being fully utilised. I have said that in the House. Because of various difficulties like transport difficulties, sometimes shortage of coal, sometimes shortage of power and sometimes other difficulties, it is not being fully utilised. But I cannot say that on the average it is disastrous. I would not say that. But there is scope for improvement provided on the other parameters like raw-material supply, everything is done.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Sixty per cent only.

एक मामलीय सदस्य : यह बहानेबाजी है ।

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I shall welcome you to come and do it instead of my spending sleepless nights over it. Therefore it is not *bahanebazi*. It is a national sport that we close down a factory, a power plant or we close down the Railways or a harbour. It is not mine. We are all parties to it. Unless the whole nation takes to work, one way or the other, I do not think that there is much scope for improvement.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Listeners Forums' amongst Farmers and Villages

*386. **SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether listeners forums were formed amongst farmers in villages where there are public radios; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). Two types of Listeners' Forums—Radio Rural Forums and Krishak Charcha

Mandals (Farmers Discussions Groups)—have been formed in a number of villages. Every Radio Rural Forum has a community listening set. However, Radio Rural Forums have not been established in every village having a community listening set.

Drilling along Coastline for Oil

*388. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:
SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that only a few locations have been identified for exploratory drilling along our vast coastline;

(b) whether our country lacks a sufficient number of oil prospecting ships; and

(c) if so, do Government propose to employ foreign firms for conducting oil surveys?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) Several offshore areas have been identified for exploratory drilling which include locations off Kutch, in the Gulf of Cambay, off Bombay-Ratnagiri, off Mangalore-Kasargod, Krishna-Godavari Delta, Palk Straits, Bay of Bengal (off Orissa Coast) and off Andaman-Nicobar Islands.

(b) Generally oil prospecting is done by either having owned vessels and rigs or by charter hiring depending on economic considerations. At present ONGC owns one survey vessel "M. V. Anweshak" and a drilling jack-up rig "Sagar Samrat" for oil prospecting in the offshore areas. It has also hired suitable drilling rigs and utilised foreign survey vessels on service contract basis from time to time for its offshore programme. Oil India Limited has also utilised foreign survey vessel for similar work.

(c) Foreign firms would be employed for doing survey work on contract basis if considered necessary. For intensifying geophysical surveys during 1979, ONGC has already finalised a service contract with a foreign firm for conducting detailed geophysical survey in the Andaman Shelf and in the offshore area off Krishna-Godavari Delta during the period March—June, 1979.

Supply of Boric Acid to Cooperative Sector

*392. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cooperative Sector has approached M/s Borax Morarji Ltd. for supply of Boric Acid Technical to curb upturn in prices and to ensure fair distribution among the small actual users;

(b) whether M/s Borax Morarji Ltd. have refused supply of material to the Cooperative Sector even though the company is utilising only half of its installed capacity;

(c) if so what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to ensure supply of the material to cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) M/s Borax Morarji Limited, Bombay have informed this Ministry that some Cooperative Societies approached them for supply of Boric Acid Technical.

(b) M/s Borax Morarji Limited have stated that they did not refuse to supply Boric Acid Technical to the Cooperative Sector but that the Societies that approached them did not take any Boric Acid when offers were made. The capacity utilisation of M/s Borax Morarji during 1978 has been 88.3 per cent.