

country is produced by these four mills. But these mills are also producing at under-capacity because bamboo is not being supplied to them. What steps are you taking to supply bamboo to them?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Mr. Ramoowalia's supplementary is correct. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is not supplying bamboo to them. What can I do? Intentionally, they are not supplying sufficient paper. One mill was closed down. (*Interruptions*) In 1974, the royalty on bamboo was Rs. 3/-. Afterwards it was increased to Rs. 30/- and then it was increased to Rs. 60/-. Now the present Government has increased the royalty to Rs. 560/- per tonne. Even at that rate, they are not supplying it to the paper mills. That is the trouble.

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH: Sir, the shortage of newsprint is leading to disinformation or misinformation of India, as the lack of reading material, naturally, leads to lesser education of the masses. Will the Government, especially the Minister of Industry, look into the aspect of a major by-product of sugar factories, i.e. bagasse, which is today being burnt by sugar factories? If the Ministry of Industry would see to it, like in Tamilnadu and Karnataka where this bagasse is being used for the production of paper, we would be able to save lakhs and lakhs of rupees that we spend on importing paper; secondly, a lot of newsprint would be available. So will the Government look into this fact sugar factories, especially, in U.P. and Maharashtra, are provided with the necessary infra-structure or financial help so that this bagasse could be used for the production of paper?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: I agree with the hon. Member's suggestion. We have already granted for letters of indent for mills using bagasse. In anybody wants to start units based on a bagasse-content, we will issue them. There is no excise duty on paper, manufactured using bagasse. All the concessions are given. If anybody is ready to start mills, we are ready to give more letters of indent.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The price rise of paper is not because of low capacity utilisation of paper industry in paper mills. But there is indeed a crisis in paper industry in our country. A number of paper mills either have become sick or are closed down. In West Bengal, at least three paper mills have been closed down for the last several years. May I know from the Government whether there is any proposal to reopen one of the biggest pioneer paper mills, that is Titagarh Paper Mill of West Bengal?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: If the management is interested in opening the mill, we will certainly help them.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: You take over the management and open it.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Sir, the Central Government has introduced a very important scheme, universalisation of elementary education and adult education throughout the country. But it has been found that these schemes are not running well because of the deficiency of reading materials, which is because of the lack of required quantity of paper. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Ministry is going to take so see that the demand of the paper for preparation of reading materials would be met. The adult education and the universalisation of elementary education in the country should be done in a effective way.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: This question should be answered by the Department of Human Resources. Anyhow, I will answer it. The total demand for exercise books is 1,50,000. Now they are taking only 80,000. Even for this 80,000, They are not in a position to pay the market price. The mills are earning profits. They are not charitable institutions. They must pay the difference between the market price and the subsidised price and then the mills will supply sufficient quantity.

Import of LPG

*909. **SHRI RAMPYARE PANIKA:** Will

the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of LPG imported during 1987-88 and 1988-89, year-wise;

(b) whether its import is likely to increase during 1989-90;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be involved therein during 1989-90; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase indigenous production of LPG and conserve foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The quantity of LPG imported is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity ('000 tonnes)</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1987-88	153.5
1988-89 (Provisional)	252.0

(b) and (c). A quantity of 300,000 MT is proposed to be imported during 1989-90 to meet the deficit in the country.

(d) The foreign exchange involved therein is estimated to be about Rs. 107 crores.

(e) In order to increase the production of LPG and other petroleum products, the refining capacity in the country is proposed to be augmented, basis establishment of an LPG Recovery Plan at Bijapur.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the hon. Minister's statement that there has been a gradual progress in the Ministry for Petroleum for the

last 4 years and the House will be happy to hear about their achievements during 6th and 7th five year plan that they have raised the production of crude oil from 102.77 during the 6th five year plan to 123 during the last 4 years. The production of natural gas has been increased from 24.3 to 39.10 and refineries also have been functioning quite efficiently which have increased their production from 160 million tonnes to 184.75 million tonnes and Sir, under our Ministry, for Petroleum, our company O.N.G.C. is a profit earning undertaking and its profit is constantly increasing. This year the amount of profit of this undertaking is Rs. 22109 crores. The hon. Minister has state that the work is going on quite efficiently and oil and gas have been explored in a dozen of new places. He has also stated that there is no problem of foreign exchange, because when we import more L.P.G. there will be no need to importing Kerosene which will save foreign exchange. as per my information two well equipped plants are proposed to be set up and out of them one is proposed for Mangalore and the other one for Hazira. Hence, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to set up these plants at the earliest on priority basis by providing well equipped machines in both the plants in view of the dwindling foreign exchange reserve and the situations prevailing in the country.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already stated in my reply that we are making two kinds of efforts. Our first effort is to augment our indigenous production and in this connection, an LPG Recovery Plant is being established at Vijaipur and the capacity of the Hajira Plant will be raised to 4 lakh tonnes from the present capacity of 2 lakh tonnes and some gas will also be exploited in Hajira and some in other areas. Besides, the Government is making efforts to augment the refining capacity in the country but as the hon. Member has himself suggested, we are prepared to import LPG because firstly, it helps in conserving our forest wealth and secondly it helps in the saving of foreign exchange required for the import of kerosene oil. But there are only two

ports available for the import of LPG. These are Bombay and Vishakhapatnam. Bombay port has already reached a saturation point and import cannot be increased further. As regards Vishakhapatnam, we have our naval base there. Therefore we have problems there as well. We are making efforts to make maximum import through these two ports. However, we are making efforts to construct two or three L.P.G. Terminals and this proposal is under consideration. With the construction of these terminals, the import of L.P.G. will become easier.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA: I am satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister and I would like to make a suggestion in this regard. Our country is faced with a severe problem of pollution and although as per Government figures, our forest cover is 22 or 17 percent, the real position is otherwise. As per my practical experience, the forest cover is not more than 10 or 12 percent which indicates the gravity of the situation and presently, there is also an acute crisis of fuel in the country. Keeping all these things in view and within the existing frame work, will the hon. Minister make the scheme of providing gas agencies in urban areas with a population of 20 thousand applicable at the block level and particularly in those blocks where there are forests and which are now getting depleted and also in the hill, desert, cyclone and drought-prone areas so that gas-agencies may be made available there and forests and be protected against their depletion.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: In this connection, I have already stated we are making efforts and although it is a welcome suggestion, we have certain limitations and whatever we can do within those limitations, we are making efforts to do so. Efforts are being made to augment production and emphasis is also being laid on increasing the imports. Merely opening new agencies will not do until we are in a position to meet their gas-requirements. It will create undue resentment. Moreover, we cannot lay emphasis on L.P.G. along but on the development of bio-gas as well. Wherever it is not possible to

supply bio-gas or L.P.G, we are making efforts to supply kerosene there but, in principle, you are right.

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA: The Chairman of ONGC has said in Bombay in a Press Conference that nearly Rs. 300 crores of commercial value of gas is flared up in Bombay High only. On the other side, we are spending Rs. 153 crores in the import of LPG. This is due to the fact that you do not have enough recovery plants of LPG. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how much time will the Government of India take so that they will be able to utilise every single cubic metre of gas which is coming from the fields and not to waste even a single cubic meter of gas.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: 100 percent utilisation of natural gas is not possible. Every day a new well is found in some remote area and the gas which is coming is an associated gas.

As the infrastructure develops, the quantum of flaring comes down. It has come down from 42 percent to 22 percent nationally and we are trying to improve the infrastructure throughout the country.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: The Minister has not given a satisfactory reply to the supplementary raised by Mr. Murli Deora. The people of this country are very much astonished about the way in which wastage is taking place in respect of the natural gas being burnt and left in the atmosphere. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what concrete steps is the Government proposing to take to utilise the huge resources of natural gas that are proved in the Krishna-Godavari basin, in the near future, in view of the larger national interest. Is the Government going to take some concrete measures to establish some plants through which natural gas can be converted into liquid petroleum gas?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Far away in

Andhra Pradesh, in KG basin, we have found both oil and gas. The quantity of gas is more specially in the island area of the East Godavari district. We have already laid a pipeline from that area to Kovvur and not beyond Kovvur. We have already committed to Narsapur power plant. Then we are going to Kakinada. At present, we are not satisfied with it because the production is not so much. The question of conversion will come later on. Why should we go to the third stage before crossing the first stage?

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You must have some plans in the Eighth Plan.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: That is all right. The perspective plan is ready.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the hon. Minister's statement about the proposed construction of new terminals, I would like to know the number of new terminals proposed to be constructed and also which are these new terminals and by what time these terminals are expected to be completed?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT: Sir, this proposal is under consideration of the Government and these terminals will be located on the sea-coast. As soon as technical assistance is available in this regard, I shall get the work started. I expect that technical advice will reach us by the end of this year and thereafter it will take two years more to construct the terminals.

[*English*]

Device to Check Explosions

*910. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT†:
PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Pune based company has developed a safety device to guard men and machines from fuel container explosions that may occur due to combustion or fire;

(b) whether the said device can be easily installed inside the fuel container, car petrol tank, aircraft, gas cylinders etc. and even in the currently used containers; and

(c) whether Government have gone through the functioning of the said device and if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). M/s. Firma Exco India Pvt. Ltd., Pune have been granted foreign collaboration with M/s. Zenith Industrieanlagenau Ges. m.b.H., Austria for manufacture of explosion control apparatus and filler bodies for combustible fuel in the small scale sector in December 1987. The said device, it is claimed, can either be installed at the time of construction of fuel storage tankers or insertion filled as in motor vehicle fuel tanks. With the use of these filler bodies, the possible explosion of fuel tank is claimed to be prevented. The foreign collaboration was approved in December 1987. No report has so far been received about the implementation of the project or about the functioning of the device.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of lives are lost an account of explosions of oil tankers and L.P.G. cylinders. If this company is developing a safety device with foreign collaboration in our country to guard against such explosions, it becomes imperative for this Government to acquire the details about the functioning of the said device. I have received the information that the company has not only developed such a device but it has also held its demonstration. Therefore, in order to infuse confidence amount the masses, the Government should get an enquiry conducted