

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister made a statement on the floor of this House announcing the Government's decision to set up a second oil Refinery in Assam;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will the Minister be pleased to state whether the Prime Minister at the time of her recent visit to Assam denied the report that the Centre would set up a second oil refinery in Assam; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister in her speech at a public meeting in Gauhati on October 3, 1970, said that the demand for the refinery is a "small" matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN): (a) The Prime Minister had made a statement on 5th December, 1969, in the Lok Sabha that Government had decided that the present refining capacity in Assam should be increased by a little over 1 million tonnes in the Fourth Plan period, either through expansion or the establishment of an additional refinery, as may be found economically feasible.

(b) It is not correct to say that the Prime Minister during her recent visit to Assam denied the report that the Centre would set up a second oil refinery in Assam. She said that the entire issue was under consideration.

(c) What the Prime Minister said was that a second Oil Refinery was not likely to solve all the problems of the State. It might help only in a small way in solving the problems of development and of providing employment opportunities to the people of the State.

She exhorted the people of Assam, specially the youth, to work whole-heartedly for a higher goal with a view to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people of Assam.

REVOLVING FUND FOR HOUSING SCHEMES

180. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a revolving fund of Rs. 200 crores has been created to assist the States in implementing their housing schemes; and

(b) the progress made by various States in implementing their housing schemes out of that fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PARIMAL GHOSH): (a) and (b) The Housing and Urban Development Finance Corporation, which has been registered as a Government Company, will endeavour to build up a Revolving Fund of Rs. 200.00 crores for financing approved housing and urban development projects in the States. Housing Projects prepared by the various States are under scrutiny with a view to determine their suitability for being financed from the Revolving fund.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN WEST ASIA

181. SHRI MONORANJAN ROY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are keeping any watch over the recent developments in West Asia; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to these developments?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India consider the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution No. 242 of 22nd November 1967, as essential for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in West Asia. The Government also hope that talks under the auspices of the U.N. Secretary General's Special Representative aimed at seeking implementation of the Security Council Resolution of 22nd November 1967, will take place without further delay.

NUCLEAR EXPLOSION BY CHINA

182. SHRI R. P. KHAITAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of China have recently conducted a nuclear explosion; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government consider it to be a matter for concern as they have always been opposed to all nuclear weapons tests.