

**JPC probe in Co-operative Banks Scam**

88. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Finance Minister has been urged to accept the demands for JPC probe in Co-operative Banks Scam;

(b) if so, whether Rs. 500 crore scam in treasury operations in Government securities of Co-operative Banks has been referred to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for further probe;

(c) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) what are the main reasons for delay in taking this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE) : (a) to (d) During the course of discussion on a Calling Attention Motion on 16th May, 2002 in Rajya Sabha on the subject of securities scam in Co-operative Banks, some Members had urged to entrust the enquiry to the Joint Parliamentary Committee as well as to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The then Finance Minister in his reply had stated that Government would look into the matter with reference to constitutional position on the subject as it also involves the State Government. Government of Maharashtra has since been requested to consider handing over these cases to CBI for investigation.

**Rise in production of LPG**

89. SHRI LAJPAT RAI :

SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of LPG from refineries in the country has risen to the level which is higher than the estimated requirement;

(b) what is the number of household LPG connections together with the number of total families in the country;

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(c) whether it is a fact that fairly a large number of families make use of more than only one LPG card; if so, the number of such cases; and

(d) by when, such number of LPG connections will be released to match the number of families in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 1-4-2002, 635 lakh customers are served by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies through their LPG distributors.

(c) As per instructions, one family is entitled for one LPG connection only.

(d) At present, LPG connections are available on demand all over the country in all the markets.

**Bids under New Exploration Licensing Policy**

**90. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have invited bids for exploration of oil and gas under the New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(b) if so, the locations for which the bids have been invited, State-wise;

(c) the last date of receiving bids; and

(d) the details in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) :** (a) to (d) To intensify efforts for exploration of oil and gas in the country, Government, under the third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), have offered 27 exploration blocks under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB). These include 11 onland blocks falling in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tripura and West Bengal, 9 Deep Water blocks and 7 shallow water blocks, located on both East and West Coasts. The Notice Inviting