

Exploration Work in Gujarat

387. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) why the oil and gas exploration work had been stopped in the State of Gujarat;
- (b) whether Government propose to start it in the near future; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Exploration work in the State of Gujarat has not been stopped.

Distributorship for Petrol, Diesel and LPG Dealership

388. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of Petrol/Diesel/LPG agencies/dealership/distributorship for which interviews have been held since long;
- (b) whether these outlets have not been sanctioned so far;
- (c) if so, the number of such cases which have been pending in different States and since when;
- (d) the steps taken to expedite the allotment; and
- (e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND -NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) There are 110 (i.e. 44 retail outlets and 66 LPG distributorships) such cases where interviews have already been held but LOIs were not issued due to complaints against the dealers/distributors selection, court cases etc. All complaints are investigated by the competent authority. In the case of Court cases further action depends on orders of the Hon'ble Courts.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

389. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the exploration blocks in which ONGC has been exploring oil and natural gas at present;
- (b) whether there has been a sharp decline in the production of oil by ONGC; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Oil and Natural Gas corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has been involved in exploration of the following basins/areas:

- Cambay Basin in Gujarat.
- Jaisalmar Basin in Rajasthan.
- Krishna-Godavari Basin in Andhra Pradesh.
- Cauvery Basin in Tamilnadu & Pondicherry.
- Bengal Basin in West Bengal.
- Assam shelf and Assam-Arakan Fold Belt in Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura.
- Himalayan Foothills in Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.
- Gondwana and Vindhyan Basins in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.
- Eastern offshore areas contiguous to Krishna-Godavari & Cauvery Basins.
- Western Offshore contiguous to Kutch and Saurashtra and also Mumbai and Kerala-Konkan Basins.

(b) and (c) There has been a marginal decline in the production of crude oil by ONGC from its fields. The major reasons for the decline in production of crude oil are:—

- (i) decline in production from matured fields.
- (ii) geological surprise viz. reduction in initial oil in place and recoverable reserves with reference to original estimates of Neelam Field.
- (iii) modernation of production from Bombay field as per recommendation of the consultant.
- (iv) unexpected increase in water cut in Bombay High Reservoir, Gandhar Field and Lakwa-Lakhmani field.
- (v) continued environmental problems in eastern region.

Identification for Infrastructure Investment

390. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to new policy of Government a large portion of infrastructure investment is proposed to be assigned to private enterprise to give a fillip to developmental activities;

(b) if so, whether the areas of infrastructure have been properly identified and allocated to such bodies/agencies to ensure speedy development; and