

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "GAIL sell off opens cheap route to key stake for firms" in Business Standard dated 10th November, 1999; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, specially with regard to the reported internal valuation of the energy companies of GAIL's equity value of Rs. 350 per share;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government is aware of news item titled "GAIL sell off opens cheap route to key stake for firms" Business Standard dated 9th November, 1999.

(b) Government have no access to the internal valuation of energy company, regarding their assessment of a fair value of share of GAIL in a strategic sale. Government have disinvested GAIL's share in the domestic as well as in the GDR market as per the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission who have recommended disinvestment up to 25% only. No strategic sale of GAIL's shares has been effected. Strategic sale would normally involve transfer of management control.

Pending List of LPG Connections in Metro Cities

†1655. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any ambitious scheme to end the pending list of cooking gas in metro cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

' (c) the number of cooking gas connections likely to be given in the year 1999-2000 under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have issued directions to the Public Sector Oil Companies to clear the waiting list

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

in the Metros of Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai LPG connections are being released in NCT Delhi on demand.

(c) Around 11 lakh new LPG connections are likely to be released during the year 1999-2000 in the Metro cities of Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai and Mumbai by PSU Oil Companies.

New Oil Wells Discovered in the Country

1656. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new oil wells have been discovered by the Public Sector Oil Exploration Companies till date during the last three years;

(b) what is the number of wells so far discovered, company-wise, location-wise particularly in Rajasthan State;

(c) what is the quantity of oil explored and still left in each of these wells till date; and

(d) whether Government have entrusted oil exploration work to private sector companies also, if so, with what results as compared to PSU companies during the above mentioned period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) During the years 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (upto 1-10-1999), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has made following hydrocarbon finds:—

Onshore

S. No.	Field	State
1996-97		
1	Mekrang	Assam
2	Wadasma	Gujarat
3	Kherwa	Gujarat
4	Asmali	Gujarat
5	Hirapur	Gujarat