

(b) to (d) The gas production from Bombay High during 1993-94 was about 4539 MMSCM. This is presently transported to Uran through a subsea pipeline for use by industries in fertilizers, power, petro-chemicals etc. Another pipeline from Bombay High (ICP Platform) to Hecra field is presently under construction to facilitate transportation of additional gas from Bombay High to Uran through the existing trunkline.

Economic viability of RAAVA Oil Field operated by ONGC

2971. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC has assessed the economic viability of operating the Ravva oil field of Andhra Pradesh Coast;

(b) whether it is a fact that ONGC wants to lease out this Ravva field to private sectors;

(c) what terms are expected from the private sector for the fields; and

(d) details of stand of the ONGC on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the award of contract for development of Ravva field to a consortium of Command Petroleum, Australia, Videocon International, India and Marubeni Corporation, Japan.

The Ravva field is to be developed by the consortium in joint venture with ONGC under production sharing arrangements with statutory levies like royalty and gas being payable. ONGC would be taking a 40% participating interest in the development of the Ravva field.

(d) The ONGC management has been fully associated with the various aspects related to the offer of the field.

Employees working in ONGC in Ravva Oil Field

2972. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of employees working in Oil and Natural Gas Commission presently in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of employees out of them working in Ravva Oil Field;

(c) the number of those employees who are permanent and temporary respectively at Ravva Oil Field; and

(d) whether there is a proposal to retrench any employees in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) 1392 employees (including 772 executives) are working in Krishna-Godavari Project (Andhra Pradesh) of ONGC Ltd.

(b) and (c) 60 employees (including 28 executives) have been posted to look after operations in Ravva Oilfield. All these employees are regular.

(d) No, Sir.

Expansion in the refining capacity of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

2973. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited proposes to expand its refining capacity;

(b) if so, the plan drawn up by HPCL in that regard for Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(c) the new refineries proposed to be set up by HPCL in these two Plan period; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) During the Eighth and Ninth Plan periods, HPCL has proposed to increase their refining capacity from 10 MMTPA to 13 MMTPA through expansion of Vizag Refinery by 3 MMTPA.

M/s HPCL and Indian Rayon & Industries Limited as co-promoters are currently implementing a grass-root refinery of 3 MMTPA capacity at Mangalore proposed to be expanded to 6 MMTPA.

A joint Venture Company between HPCL and Oman Oil Company Limited has been registered for setting up of a 6 MMTPA oil refinery at Deogarh, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

NRIs for Oil Drilling in India

2974. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and Foreign companies have sought permission from Government for oil drilling in India;

(b) if so, the names and the number of such Foreign Companies and NRIs;

(c) whether they have submitted formal applications;

(d) if so, the steps taken to consider their applications; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM &

NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government of India is, on a regular basis, inviting private companies to bid for exploration for oil and gas in specified blocks in India. So far eight rounds of bidding have been announced. The names of foreign companies and NRIs who submitted bids under 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th rounds are given in the enclosed Statement. (see below)

(d) and (e) Under the Fourth Round, a contract has already been signed with a consortium led by Albion International Resources of USA for a block in the Krishna-Godavari offshore basin.

Government of India has further approved award of contracts to foreign oil companies, participating on their own or as part of consortium, as follows:—

1. Pan Energy Resources of USA
2. Pan Pacific Petroleum NL of Australia
3. Coplex Resources Ltd. of Australia
4. Shell International, Netherlands
5. Vaalco Energy Inc. of USA

The proposals received under Fifth round are under consideration of the Government. The bids received under 6th round have been evaluated and bidders would be called for negotiation shortly. Bids received under 7th round are under evaluation, while the last date for submission of bids for the 8th round is 30.12.1994.

Statement

Details regarding the names of foreign companies and NRIs who submitted bids under 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th rounds

FOURTH ROUND

Foreign Companies:

1. Baker & Taylor Drilling Company, U.S.A.
2. Oil International Ltd., U.S.A.
3. Pan Energy Resources Inc., U.S.A.
4. Coplex Resources Inc. Australia