

(b) if so, what are the details of the references and terms of the panels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reduction in oil Prices by OPEC

654. SHRIMATI SAROJ KHAPARDE:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a decline in oil prices in oil producing countries;

(b) if so, to what extent the oil prices have gone down in those countries;

(c) to what extent India's import bill will be reduced as a result thereof;

(d) whether this will have any affect on our oil exploration programmes; and

(e) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The recent reductions in prices of crude oil being supplied by oil producing countries range from \$ 2.40/bbl to \$ 5.50/bbl.

(c) As against the net import bill of crude oil and petroleum products of about Rs. 4978 crores in 1981-82,

the likely import bill on this account for 1982-83 will be about Rs. 5400 crores. The estimates of the net import bill on this account for 1983-84 are being finalised. It is likely that the net import bill for crude oil and petroleum products in 1983-84 will be further reduced substantially.

(d) and (e) Both Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited are engaged in Oil exploration work with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in the production of crude oil and the reduction in crude prices will not have any effect on this work in the foreseeable futiu-e.

Waiting Irist for Cooking Gas Connections ..

655. SHRI HARISHANKAR BHABHRA:

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI LAKHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present number of those on the waiting lists for allotment of cooking gas connection in Delhi, Bombay; Calcutta and Madras, separately; and

(b) what is the number of new distributorships opened during the last three months to cover the waiting lists in each of the above mentioned four cities?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) The required information is given below:

	Delhi	Bombay	Calcutta	Madras
1. Waiting lists of persons as on 31-3-83 for allotment of cooking gas connections	4,59,465	2,45,570	69,547	1,67,283
2. Number of new distributorships opened at the above places during the last three months to cover the waiting lists	3	3	..	3