

(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 effect 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 future.

Waiting List 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?

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