

Government Offices/Departments including the Government Audit party stationed at their Head Quarters for the release of LPG (cooking gas) connections to various Persons. The category-wise/Department-wise details of the number of such recommendations received and the releasees made are not readily available.

(c) and (d). The Government Departments/the Audit Party are free to make the recommendations. However, LPG connections are released by the oil companies only after considering the individual requests on merits under the existing guidelines for the release of LPG connections for domestic use.

Oil and Gas potential in Godavari Basin

637. SHRI B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the oil potential of offshore Godavari Basin;

(b) how many years it took to drill the two exploratory wells in Narasapur structure;

(c) whether the Narasapur and Razole wells in Godavari basin have met the Geological objectives; and

(d) if so, what are the results in terms of oil and gas potential?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The oil potential of the offshore Godavari basin is being assessed on the basis of exploration efforts where progress is being expedited. It is difficult to indicate any figure at this stage. •

(b) Drilling operations in the Narasapur structure of the Godavari basin commenced on April 5, 1978 and the first well was drilled upto a depth of 4035 metres by 19-12-70 when there was a gas blowout.

The second well in this structure was spudded on March 1, 1981 reached a depth of 3401 metres as on 28-2-82 when a blowout occurred but was immediately controlled. Fishing operations in this second well are in progress.

(c) In the second well in Narasapur fishing operations are in progress to continue further drilling in order to achieve the Geological objectives.

The well in Razole has reached its projected depth of 4500 metres and testing is in progress.

(d) Since the Narasapur-2 well has still to be completed and testing is in progress in the Razole well it is not possible to assess the oil & gas potential for the present.

Production of Gas from Godavari

638. SHRI B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the gas blowout the wells in Godavari Basin are retrievable for gas production;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure an early production of gas; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to increase the number of drilling rigs in this area to expedite the work?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Blowouts have occurred in wells Narasapur I and Narasapur II in the Godavari On-shore area. In the Narasapur-I well, which was drilled upto 4035 mts. when the blowout occurred, repeated fishing operations were not successful and ultimately the well could be cleared only upto about 2932 metres. In the Narasapur II well, drilling was upto 3401 metres when a blowout