

sion of such facilities to the new areas will be on the basis of a number of factors like anticipated customer potential, nearness of market from the source of supply, availability of safe/commercial mode of transport and viability of operations.

(c) and (d) In view of the fact that a large number of applicants for cooking gas connections are still on the waiting lists, it is presently not possible to make available cooking gas on demand in metropolitan cities.

(e) It is not possible to assess the exact demand of LPG (Cooking gas) in the country as other alternate fuels like kerosene, soft coke, fire wood and gobar gas are being used. About 4.3 lakh tonnes of LPG (Cooking gas) is available in the country which meets the demand of about 32 lakh cooking gas consumers.

Short-listing of foreign oil companies for oil exploration

612. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY:

SHRI R. R. MORARKA:

SHRI PILOO MODY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of foreign companies short-listed for oil exploration in the selected blocks in the country had come to India;

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies in the blocks proposed to be given to them;

(c) whether these companies have submitted their final bids;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what are the details of the agreement finalised or proposed to be finalised with these companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Twentyone companies out of the thirtyfive short-listed companies had visited ONGC, Dehradun, for technical discussions.

(b) to (e) No bids have been received so far nor have any agreements been finalised yet. Government has invited twentyfour foreign companies who had shown continued interests for submitting their offers by 30th April, 1981 in respect of the 32 blocks on offer for exploration contracts.

Release of books by Publication Division

613. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 72 books released by the Publication Division during 1980 only 10 pertained to all national languages other than Hindi;

(b) what is the amount spent over English books, Hindi books and books in other national languages during this period by the Publication Division;

(c) what is the average number of pages in the three categories of books mentioned above; and

(d) what is the average size of the edition in the three categories?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (MISS KUMUD-BEN M. JOSHI): (a) During 1980, 76 books were released by Publications

Division. Out of these 10 were in national languages in other than Hindi.

(b) English . . . Rs. 6,82,300.

Hindi . . . Rs. 5,27,300.

National Languages (Other than Hindi) . . . Rs. 1,04,500.

(c) English . . . 249

Hindi . . . 170

National Languages (Other than Hindi) . . . 134

(d) Books are published in three sizes. Number of books published in different sizes is as under:

Language	A-5 5½" × 8"	Royal 8Vo 6½" × 9" 1½"	B-5 7" × 9½"
English	16	12	5
Hindi	12	3	18
National Languages (Other than Hindi)	7	..	3

Selection of clippings from newspapers and periodicals by P.I.B.

614. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of newspapers and periodicals, language-wise, which are regularly studied by the P.I.B. to keep the Government informed of reaction to Government policies;

(b) the names of newspapers and periodicals, language-wise, from which clippings are made and supplied to Ministries/Departments concerned; and

(c) the date when the lists were last received?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Sick units of Balmer Lawrie

†615. SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the Balmer Lawrie, a sick unit was taken over by Government;

(b) what is the present financial position of the said undertaking;

(c) whether it is a fact that the said undertaking is trying to acquire another sick unit, Eureka Chemicals Ltd., of Haldia;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Eureka Chemicals Ltd., has a liability of more than 1½ crores as against an asset of only 50 lakhs; and

(e) what are the reasons for the attempt of one sick unit to take over another sick unit with heavy liability?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The Balmer Lawrie and Company Ltd. became a

†Previously Unstarred Question 365 transferred from the 23rd April, 1981.