

issue of Letter of Intent, obtaining of various approvals/No Objection Certificates from various statutory authorities, etc.

(c) Locations Behat, Sarsawa, Faizabad, Rankhandi and Chutmalpur in the district of Saharanpur in U.P. have been identified by OMCs for opening of LPG distributorships.

#### **New sources of Hydrocarbons in the country**

2525. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has further identified the sources of gas, oil and other hydrocarbon products in in-shore and off-shore locations of the country;

(b) which are the locations already exploited by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and Private Sector players out of the areas already identified, product-wise; and

(c) the turnover for the companies from these fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 (till date), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private JV Companies have made 51 hydrocarbons discoveries in the states of Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Tripura and Eastern and Western Offshore of the country. Out of these discoveries, oil discoveries are 21, gas discoveries are 19 and remaining 11 are oil and gas discoveries.

During 2009-10, oil production was 0.257 Million Metric Tonne (MMT) and gas production was 82.645 Million Standard Cubic Meter (MMSCM) from new discoveries of ONGC.

Further, during 2009-10, oil production was 0.008 MMT from new discoveries of OIL.

#### **IPI Pipeline**

2526. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of trilateral negotiations between Iran, Pakistan and India for importing piped gas into India from Iran via Pakistan;

(b) whether the agreement in this regard recently concluded bilaterally between Iran and Pakistan, facilitates or hinders the eventual trilateralization of the project and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware of the objections voiced by US authorities to Pakistan over their agreement with Iran; and

(d) whether such objections have also been voiced to India or are deterring India from pursuing the project more vigorously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, viz., pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc. are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(b) According to media reports, Heads of Agreement (HoA) and Operational Agreement that would pave the way for construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan have been signed between Iran & Pakistan in March 2010. Subsequently, both the countries signed the sovereign guarantee agreement in May 2010 in Islamabad. As informed, the HoA contains provision for transporting Indian gas volume through the Pakistani territory if and when India decides to join the project.

(c) It has been reported that US officials have conveyed to Pakistan the implication of sanctions imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1929 of June 9, 2010 and US laws on Projects such as the Iran-Pakistan pipeline agreement.

(d) US officials and others have from time to time drawn the attention of the Government to the implications of sanctions imposed by United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 1929 of June 9, 2010 and US domestic laws on projects, such as the IPI gas pipeline project. However, the Government is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran in national interest in order to enhance the energy security of the country.