

Supply of solvent to Petrol Pumps in Delhi

869. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a few tanker owners have been supplying solvent to a number of petrol pumps in Delhi, whose residence are reported to have been raided by the Delhi Police in May, 2000;

(b) if so, the names of the petrol pump owners who had been receiving solvent from these tankers for mixing in the petrol;

(c) whether these petrol pumps are still functioning; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) On 15th May, 2000, Delhi Police found M/s Allied Motor, Preet Vihar Delhi, a retail outlet dealer unloading some products in Unleaded petrol tank. The samples drawn by the Police failed in the lab. Test. The retail outlet was terminated on 18.5.2000.

Petrol and Gas reserves in West Bengal, Orissa and NE States

870. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the steps taken or being taken, to find out new reserves of petrol and gas in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and NE States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): Steps taken/being taken for exploration of hydrocarbons by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and Private/Joint Venture Companies, in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and North Eastern States include:

West Bengal:

During the years, 1997—2000, ONGC has acquired 49.1 Ground Line Kilometre (GLK) of 2D and 2062 GLK of 3D seismic data besides carrying out re-testing of well Ichapur-1. During the years 2000—02, ONGC plans to acquire 200 GLK of seismic data in Bengal basin. ONGC has initiated preliminary geological surveys in Raniganj area for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM). One block in Raniganj area has also been awarded by Government to a private party for exploration and production on CBM.

Bihar:

During the year, 1997-98, ONGC acquired 122 GLK of 2D seismic data in the State. At present, ONGC has initiated Research and Development (R&D) work in CMB exploration and-drilled 4 wells in Jharia (Parbatpur block).

Orissa:

In the years 1973—75, the erstwhile Oil and Natural Gas Commission had earned out seismic surveys in the Mahanadi basin of Orissa. During the period 1974--90, OIL carried out extensive surveys in the Mahanadi offshore and onshore areas and in North-Eastern Coast (NEC) offshore area. A total of 15 wells had been drilled in these areas. Contracts for five offshore blocks under the New Exploration Licensing Policy have been awarded for carrying out further exploration in Mahanadi and NEC areas.

North Eastern States:

ONGC is presently pursuing exploration mainly in the states of Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya. During the years 1997-2000, ONGC has acquired 2053 GLK of 2D and 5038 GLK of 3D seismic data and drilled 59 exploratory wells. It plans to acquire 2235 GLK of 2D and 4350 GLK of 3D seismic data and drill 79 exploratory wells during 2000—2002;

Oil has acquired 3944 Standard Line Kilometre (SLKM) of 2D, and 5000 Square Kilometre- (SQ KM) of 3D seismic data and has achieved approximately 118.5 Thousand Metre of exploratory drilling in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh during the years 1997— 2000. Oil. has plans to acquire 1400 SLKM & 1000 GLK of 2D seismic data and 350 SQKM of 3D seismic data, and to drill approximately 5 thousand Metre of exploratory drilling in these states during 2000-01'.

As regard the private companies, four blocks in North-Eastern States were contracted to private companies during 7th and 8th Round of exploration bidding. In the first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy, one exploration block in Arunachal Pradesh has been awarded to consortium of Geoenpro, Geopetrol and Fresh India.

Pending applications for LPG Agencies in Bihar

† 871. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending, so far, out of the total applications for the agencies in Bihar;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.