

(b) the time by which the exploration work is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Under the Fifth Round of bidding two onshore and three offshore blocks in Mahanadi Basin have been offered for exploration for oil and gas.

(b) The last date for submission of bids is 30. 6.93. Exploration work would depend on receipt of bids and finalisation of contracts for these blocks.

#### **Excavation by O.N.G.C. in Kadmaha**

\*46. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission's excavation activities in Kadmaha, West Champaran district were stopped at 5371 metres as against the target of 5600 metres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received requests from the Government of Bihar and various organisations for the resumption of the excavation activities upto the target; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The geological objectives of drilling

the well were achieved, I therefore further drilling was not considered necessary based on data acquired.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There was no presence of hydrocarbons and the scientific information collected by drilling did not justify any further drilling of the well by O.N.G.C.

#### **Uttarnachal State**

\*47. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Resolution passed by the State Assembly of Uttar Pradesh recommending the creation of a separate Uttaranchal State was received by the Union Government from the State Government;

(b) the progress made so far in the matter;

(c) whether the Union Government are considering to hold any further discussions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The resolution passed by the Uttar Pradesh legislative Assembly was received in the Ministry of Home Affairs in December, 1991 from the State Government.

(b) to (d). On the 6th December, 1992 the Uttar Pradesh State Assembly was dissolved and the President's Rule was imposed. It is felt that it may not be prudent to take a decision in a vital and sensitive matter like this till a popularly elected representative Government is again formed in the State.