

about it, there is very little that we can do.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given an account of the complaints received against different Oil Selection Boards, but I would like to know whether any enquiry has been made into this matter? By what time new Oil Selection Boards be set up in those seven States where the Boards were wound up and within what time these Boards would start functioning?

[*English*]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, if we find that an enquiry is necessary or is justified in any particular case where if anybody brings up the kind of information which is required, then the question of enquiry will be considered. With regard to the other question which the hon. Member asked, I would like to state that most of the Boards are already in operation excepting the Jammu and Kashmir and Kerala Boards and very soon they will also start functioning.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Crude Oil

*466. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
RAI:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the average cost of production of crude oil in the country;

(b) whether the price of crude oil in international market is less in comparison to the production cost in the country;

(c) if not, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to reduce the production cost of crude oil in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c). The estimated production cost (inclusive of statutory charges etc.) of ONGC for the year 1993-94 was Rs. 2785/MT which is comparable to the current international market price of crude.

(d) and (e). Steps taken to reduce the cost of production include application of value engineering techniques, controlling over-head and semi-variable expenditures, use of latest technology and introduction of improved managerial techniques etc.

[*English*]

Illiteracy among SCs/STs

*467. SHRI BAPU HARI
CHAURE:
SHRI MANIKRAO
HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state: