

(c) to (e). Some suggestions in this regard have been received from Indian Coal Merchants Association. Government's perception is that the decision is not likely to have a negative impact. CIL have informed that coal was being supplied to the consumers against current sponsorships.

Oil Exploration

*349. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil blocks offered for exploration in the sixth round of bidding;

(b) the number of bids received for these oil blocks;

(c) whether there are some oil blocks for which no bids have been received in this round of bidding;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereof; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken for exploration of these blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) 46 blocks were offered for Exploration of oil and gas under the Sixth round of bidding.

(b) 20 bids have been received for 12 blocks.

(c) and (d). No bids have been received for 34 blocks.

(e) and (f). These blocks could be offered in further rounds with modifications in their areas, and with additional data acquired by ONGC/OIL over a period of time to make them more attractive. They could also be explored by ONGC/OIL themselves.

[Translation]

Oil Exploration Agreements

*350. KUMARI UMA BHARTI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreements have been signed between public sector oil companies and international oil companies for the exploration of oil;

(b) if so, the percentage of participation by each of the parties and the amount to be mobilized for this purpose; and

(c) the various sources from which this amount is likely to be mobilized by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Government of India has so far signed three contracts for exploration of oil and gas. The details of percentage of participation by each

company in these contracts are given below :

Block	Name of Company	Percentage of Participation
CY-OS-90/1	Vaalco Energy USA,	27
	HOEC India	31.5
	Tata Petrodyne Inc. India	31.5
	ONGC	10
GN-ON-90/3 *	HOEC India	75
	Mafatlal Industries India	25
KG-OS-90/1 *	Albion India Inc. USA	25
	Coplex Ltd. USA	20
	Niko Resources Canada	20
	HOEC India	35

* In these two blocks, ONGC has a carried interest of 30%, exercisable at the development stage.

The investment on exploration will be determined by the quantum of exploration work that the companies carry out. The investment will come from private companies and from the internal resources of ONGC.

Utilisation of Water

*351. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of ground water and surface water available in the country, separately;

(b) the per-capita consumption of water in the country; and

(c) the quantity of water utilised for drinking, irrigation and other purposes, separately?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The average annual availability of water resources potential has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic metres. However, the utilisable water resources of the country have been assessed as 1142 billion cubic metres (BCM). The break up of the utilisable quantity of ground water and surface water available in the country is as under :

	(in billion cubic metres)	
Surface water	-	690
Ground water	-	452
Total		1142

(b) The average per capita consumption of water is estimated as 668 cubic metres (approximately).

(c) The utilisation of water for various purposes is as under (surface and ground water combine):

Purpose	Utilisation (in billion cubic metres)
Irrigation	460
Domestic	25
Industrial	15
Energy	19
Others	33
Total	552

The total quantity of 552 billion cubic metres comprises 362 billion cubic metres from surface water and 190 billion cubic metres from ground water.

[English]

Tatkal Scheme

*352. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to introduce 'Tatkal Scheme' for LPG connection;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would be helpful to the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c). On 30th March, 1995, Government have approved a scheme for release of LPG connections on demand (Tatkal) to the following categories of prospective customers :

- Physically handicapped persons.
- Doctors under medical professions.
- NRIs.
- Staff of foreign nationality serving in embassies, consulates, trade commissioners.
- Foreign nationals residing in India under valid visa.
- Persons returning to India on transfer of residence basis.
- Retired defence personnel within one year of their retirement.
- Any person who has booked his LPG connection more than 7 years ago.

The main features of the scheme are as under :-

- The Tatkal connection shall be released against one time payment of non-refundable lump-sum amount of Rs. 5000/- besides

payment of normal/applicable security deposit for loaned equipment as applicable for domestic consumers.

- The Tatkal connection will be issued in the name of individual only.
- The Tatkal connection will be released with DBC.
- A total of 10% of annual industry allocation for release of new connections will be allocated for Tatkal connections.

Fire at Pasarlapudi ONGC Well

*353. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN :

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

(a) Whether nearly Rs.10 crores worth of natural gas has been lost in the blow-out fire at the Pasarlapudi ONGC Well;

(b) the total losses incurred during the 65-days' blow out;

(c) the amounts paid to the international fire-fighting experts from USA; and

(d) whether ultimately the situation was brought to normal by ONGC's own engineers and staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Natural gas worth about Rs. 7.44 crores was lost in the blow out.

(b) The total loss incurred by ONGC due to the blow out is estimated to be about Rs. 31.5 crores.

(c) An amount of Rs. 9.37 crores has been paid by ONGC to the fire fighting experts.

(d) The fire in the blow out well was put off and the well capped by M/s. Emergency Resources International Inc., USA in association with the Crisis Management Team and engineers of ONGC.

[Translation]

AIR Kendras with Shortwave

*354. SHRI RATILAL VARMA :
DR. SAKSHIJI :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Akashwani Kendras with shortwave transmitters in the country at present, State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up more such Kendras in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?