

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a serious apprehension that there will be a shortage of diesel in the month of October in the country and that it will create much crisis. It has been published in the newspapers also. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it has come to the notice of the Government? If so, what steps it is going to take to arrest this shortage in the month of October?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the Oil Coordination Committee in conjunction with the public sector oil companies, is reviewing the stock position on a day-to-day basis. We have planned for each of the quarter depending on the demand including contingencies. Our stocks are adequate and we are fully prepared to meet the peak load demands of the last quarter starting from September.

[Translation]

Joint Venture Projects

*302. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to hand over some blocks of oil fields in the country to joint venture projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether foreign capital investment is being invited for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of such foreign agencies from which capital has been invited?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (e) Government of India has been inviting offers from Indian and foreign companies for development of discovered oil fields as well as for exploration of oil and gas in various blocks in India.

Against the offer of discovered oil fields made in August, 1992, contracts for development of 5 medium sized fields have been signed as per details given below :—

Name of Company/Consortium	Field	State
Enron, USA-Reliance Industries, India	Mid & South Tapti, Mukta and Panna	Bombay offshore
Command Petroleum, Australia— Videocon India—Marubeni, Japan	Ravva	Krishna, Godavari offshore.
Compagnie Geofinanciere, France— Enpro Services, India	Kharsang	Arunachal Pradesh

In October 1993, Government of India again offered 8 medium sized oil and gas fields for development by private parties. Bids for 7 fields were received. Negotiations with bidders are in progress.

In addition to the above, Government of India has signed production sharing contracts (PSC) for exploration of oil and gas in following blocks under the Fourth round of bidding :—

Name of Block	Name of Company	State/Basin
GN-ON-90/3 in Pranhita-Godavari (Gondwana) onshore basin.	Consortium of Hindustan Oil Exploration Company and Mafatal Industries, both of India.	Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
KG-OS-90/1 in Krishna-Godavari offshore basin	Consortium comprising of M/s Albion International Resources, Inc., USA Complex Resources Limited of Australia, M/s Niko Resources of Canada and Hindustan Oil Exploration Company of India.	Krishna-Godavari offshore
RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan basin	Shell India Production Development B.V., Netherlands.	Rajasthan
CY-OS-90/1 in Cauvery offshore basin	Consortium of HOEC of India, Vaalco Energy Inc. of USA and Tata Petrodyne of India.	Cauvery offshore

Government of India has also approved award of contract for the block GK-ON-90/2 in Gujarat. Contract for this is likely to be signed shortly.

Under the Fifth Round, Government of India has approved award of contracts for exploration of oil and gas as per details given below :—

Name of Company/Consortium	Block	State/Basin
Essar Oil Limited, India	RJ-ON-90/4	Rajasthan
	RJ-ON-90/5	Rajasthan
	BB-OS/5	Bombay Offshore
HOEC, Baroda—Tata Petrodyne, Delhi—Vaalco Energy, USA	CY-OS/2	Cauvery offshore
Command Petroleum, Australia—Videocon, India	KG-OS/6	Krishna-Godavari Offshore
Rexwood-Okland Corp., USA	GK-OS/5	Gujarat Kutch offshore

Contracts for these blocks are likely to be signed shortly.

Under the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Rounds of exploration for oil and gas, 20, 12 and 33 bids respectively have been received. These are under consideration of Government.

Government of India has in March 1995 invited bids for exploration of oil and gas in 28 blocks under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme. The last date for receipt of bids is 15th September 1995.

The details of the foreign companies which have been awarded contracts for development and exploration either on their own or in consortium and would be providing capital investment for this purpose are given below :—

Name of Companies	Country
1	2
Enron	U.S.A.
Command Petroleum	Australia
Merubeni	Japan
Compagnie Geofinanciers	France

1	2
Albion International Resources	U.S.A.
Coplex Resources	Australia
Shell India Production Development B.V.	Netherlands
Pan Energy Resources	U.S.A.
Striling Resources	Australia
Okland Oil Company	U.S.A.
Pan Public Petroleum N.L.	Australia
Vaalco Energy	U.S.A.
Rexwood Corporation	U.S.A.
Niko Resources	Canada

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHVA : The hon. Minister has in his reply revealed that contracts for development of 5 medium sized fields were signed in October, 1992 and 8 medium sized fields in 1993 with private parties and the names of the companies which have been allotted the job has also been given. I want to know the progress made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The hon. Member is asking about the joint ventures. The participation of foreign as well as private domestic companies in India in exploration and production is a process started by the Government of India and this Ministry from 1990 onwards. Eight rounds of bidding have been done. Then the later initiatives also discovered fields for joint exploration. The specific question is about joint ventures. The Government of India have floated a tender for joint ventures. The bids have come in and they are in the process of evaluation.

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHVA : My second supplementary is about awarding contracts for exploration of oil. I want to know whether there are areas in Gujarat, particularly in tribal and backward areas, where investigations have revealed presence of oil and gas reserves but contracts for their development have not been awarded.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, of the exploration bids and joint-ventures and other initiatives which have fructified into contracts, almost 50 per cent to 60 per cent are in the State of Gujarat. The exploration blocks are identified on the basis of service. We have got identified results. Technical evaluation is done on the potential yield of these blocks and it is on the basis of that repeated rounds of bidding is taking place. So, there is a reasonable expectation that the wells which are offered for Indian as well as foreign companies will result in adequate production because there is scientific data available. The bidders also make their own investigations and if only it is profitable for them they will enter into the contract. In fact, the first four rounds of bids were not successful because of inadequate data and lack of incentives given to developers. In Gujarat, Sir, the wells or fields which have been recently offered are : Ankleshwar, South Kadi, Vasna and Navagam.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : Sir, I want to know from the Government (a) whether the Government has already taken a decision to set up an oil refinery at Paradeep in Joint-venture with the Government of Kuwait, if so, when will this project commence, (b) whether the process of land acquisition has started, and (c) whether some objections are raised over the area identified.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, the main question is about joint ventures in exploration. This is about a refinery. From memory, I can say that Paradeep refinery was very much on the cards. As far as the present state of the refinery and the problems are concerned I will require a little longer notice, or the Member can wait for the slip to come.

The joint venture company with Indian Oil Company and KPC is for East Coast Refinery. It is being finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, My second supplementary is about awarding contracts for exploration of oil. I want to know whether there are areas in Gujarat, particularly in tribal and backward regions where investigations have revealed presence of oil and gas reserves but contracts for their development have not been awarded? I want to know why foreign companies are being invited for joint venture in the field of exploration of oil? Do the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Oil India Ltd. not possess the necessary technical know how to carry out the exploration work?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, Rajasthan comes in two-thirds of the basins of the country which are yet to be explored in any significant measure. The oil found on exploratory work is rather thick and this exploitation for crude oil and petroleum products must have a lower priority when compared to other areas. Each State has its own resources. Rajasthan has a tremendous amount of solar energy on which the Government may incidentally take initiative to develop.

Production of Films by Foreign Cable Networks

*303. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign cable network like CNN, Zee TV, ATN etc. are being allowed to produce films and programmes in India and such programmes are sent abroad for telecast;

(b) if so, the benefits being accrued from such arrangements; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that such programmes comply with the provisions of various Indian laws and traditions of Indian culture and moral values?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) Since the locally produced programmes carried on these channels are sourced from Indian individual/companies, no permission from the Government is required for this purpose.

(b) The increased demand for Indian software has, interalia, resulted in increased employment opportunities for Indian artists/technicians employed in this trade.