

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase per hectare fertilizer consumption:-

- (i) The Government of India implemented a scheme during the 7th Plan for opening retail outlets in remote and inaccessible areas.
- (ii) Fertiliser use in small packs is being popularised to aid transportation to remote areas and to encourage use of fertilizers among small farmers.
- (iii) The States have been advised to exempt to dealers upto a limit of 10 tonnes of fertilizers, from the requirement of obtaining dealership registration certificate for enhancing easy availability of fertilizers.
- (iv) The use of micronutrients is being popularised for improving the fertilizer use efficiency in intensively cultivated areas.
- (v) Demonstration of benefits of fertilizer use and balanced/efficient application of fertilizer is being organised by State Agricultural Extension agencies.
- (vi) Soil testing facilities are being strengthened to assist farmers with appropriate advice on proper use of fertilizers.

#### **Oil Drilling Operation In Bombay High**

9418. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any drilling operations are going on in the Bombay High; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress

made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Export of Crude Oil in Absence of Adequate Refining Facilities**

9419. SHRI JAGMIT SINGH BRAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crude oil has to be exported in the absence of adequate refining facilities in the country;

(b) if so, the quantity of crude oil exported during the last three years and the names of the countries to whom it was exported and at what rate;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme for its refining within the country future;

(d) if so, the details of the scheme and the amount proposed to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the scheme would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

#### **Import of Petroleum Products**

9420. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of petroleum and

petroleum products imported during 1991-92 with the names of major suppliers and break-up of total import by countries of origin;

(b) whether there was any shift in the import pattern; and

(c) the break-up of total import by mode of purchase i.e. under Government-to-Government deal or through agreement with Companies or thorough spot purchase in auction, with the average CIF unit price for each mode of purchase during the said year?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Crude oil and petroleum products are imported both under term contracts and spot purchases. Spot purchases are not always relatable to specific countries. The term supplies of crude oil/petroleum products during 1991-92 were from USSR, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Bahrain and China. About 33.2 MMT crude oil and petroleum products valued at about Rs. 12700 crores were imported during 1991-92, out of which about 13.6 MMT was under term contracts. The price is different for each term contract and spot purchase.

#### **Supply of Seeds to Farmers at Subsidised Rates**

9421. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign companies which either on their own or through joint ventures are marketing high yielding variety of seeds in cereals, pulses and horticulture in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to purchase such seeds from these

companies and provide them at subsidised rates to poor farmers in the country; and  
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are 21 seed companies which have entered into financial/technical collaboration with the foreign companies in the area of seeds/planting materials in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

#### **LPG Agencies in Himachal Pradesh**

9422. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies functioning at present in Himachal Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) whether there is any area limit imposed to supply of LPG to consumers in rural areas;

(c) the areas covered by the Gas Agencies in district Hamirpur;

(d) whether the Government consider to extend the area limit for providing LPG to more people in rural area who reside near about 12 - 15 kilometres from the nearest LPG agency;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Information is given in the attached statement.