

Chandigarh; and

(b) the time by which LPG connections are likely to be issued to all the applications?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) About 0.64 lakhs

(b) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

[*Translation*]

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas In Rajasthan

1154. **SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Rajasthan where Seismic survey was conducted to explore oil and natural gas and when such survey was conducted;

(b) the number of places where drilling work was undertaken and the number of wells in which oil and natural gas has been found;

(c) whether ONGC and OIL have adequate number of rigs which can drill to the maximum depth and if not, whether they propose to arrange more rigs;

(d) whether according to experts there are a number of places in Rajasthan where oil and natural gas can be found;

(e) if so, whether there is proposal to conduct survey in regard to find out such places for the purpose of exploration of oil and natural gas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Since 1958, in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Bikaner and

Ganganagar Districts.

(b) 57 wells have been drilled in Rajasthan, and as on 1.10.91, gas/oil has been discovered in 25 wells.

(c) OIL and ONGC arrange for rigs as per requirement and availability.

(d) to (f) Exploration is still going on in Rajasthan.

[*English*]

Closure of Gold Mines at Kolar

1155. **SHRI RAM KAPSE:**
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Gold Mines Limited has taken any decision to close down the gold mines at Kolar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of gold mines closed down or proposed to be closed down in the near future;

(d) the anticipated loss, in terms of quantity of gold; and

(e) the number of workers rendered likely to be unemployed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Due to depletion of gold ore, ultra-deep mining operations, lower grade of gold ore and high costs of production, gold mining at Kolar has become uneconomic and the Company has sustained losses of over Rs. 118.16 crores in the last 5 years.

Government have decided to phase out the uneconomic mining at Mysore, Champion and Nundydroog mines while simultaneously exploring the possibility of economic mining at shallow levels in Kolar Gold Fields. There

is marginal shortfall in quantity due to lower production of gold ore, poor grade of ore and phasing out of mines.

(e) No worker has as yet been retrenched. Over 1000 persons have come forward to avail a Voluntary Retirement Scheme for workers being implemented by Bharat Gold Mines Limited.

Consumption of Petroleum Products

1156. SHRI SUKH DEV PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the average monthly growth rate or consumption of petroleum products since the beginning of 1991 as compared to the corresponding period in the previous year 1990;

(b) the basis and assumptions on which the statistics are based;

(c) whether the Oil Coordination Committee has recommended substantial reduction in the supplies of oil products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision, if any, taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The consumption from January, 1991 to October, 1991 was 1.2% less than the consumption during the corresponding period of 1990.

(b) These are based on figures as reported by the Oil Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Indians in Kuwaiti Jails

1157. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the

Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian nationals are languishing in the jails of Kuwait and other Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for their early release; and

(c) the number of Non-Resident Indian killed during the Gulf war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: (a) There are some Indian nationals in the jails of Kuwait and other Gulf countries.

(b) Embassy officials have been meeting Indians lodged in jails and taking up issues relating to their treatment and release with host Government on merits of each case. General advice is also tendered to such Indian nationals about local legal proceedings with a view to assist them.

(c) The information is being collected.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras

1158. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal for opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur and Dehra Tehsil of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the time by which the Krishi Vigyan Kendras are likely to be opened at the aforesaid places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision in this regard