

**PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state: [Translation]

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has discerned great prospects of oil and natural gas reserves in areas of Madhubani, Purnia, East and West Champaran districts of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the scheme proposed to be formulated by the Government for exploring the oil and natural gas in those areas?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND)** : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, exploration for hydrocarbons is in progress in various parts of Bihar.

[English]

**Price of Poultry, Eggs**

\*108. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price of poultry eggs in the country is higher than the price prevailing in International Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the price?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR)**: (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Allotment of Petrol/Diesel Retail outlets and LPG Agencies to SC/ST**

\*109. **SHRIMRUTYUNJAYANAYAK: SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:**

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

(a) the total number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the number out of these allotted to the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) whether the allotment made to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes is in conformity with their reservation quota; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND)**: (a) and (b). As on 1-10-91, there were 15077 petrol diesel retail outlets and 3999 LPG distributorships in the country, of which 980 retail outlets and 651 distributorships pertained to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(c) and (d), The prescribed percentage reservation for different categories including SC/ST is maintained by the oil industry for each State/Union Territory on the basis of a 100 point roster adopted on a rolling basis while preparing the marketing plans.

The progress is monitored.