

(b) the names of the foreign companies which have made offers by the closing date;

(c) the target date for the consideration of the offers and allotment of blocks to the successful bidder;

(d) the time frame for the commencement and completion of exploration; and

(e) whether the terms offered include preferential claim of the country on the oil and gas produced and if so, whether the price applicable will be the then prevailing world price?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) 39 offshore and 33 onshore blocks have been offered.

(b) The last date for receipt of bids is 29.2.1992.

(c) No target has been fixed.

(d) This would be decided at the time of signing of the contracts.

(e) Yes, Sir. The price payable for crude oil is at the prevailing international price. However, the price payable for natural gas would not exceed the price paid to the producer national oil companies (exclusive of cess, taxes and royalty).

[*Translation*]

Chandil Irrigation Project in Bihar

1252. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) since when the work on the Chandil Irrigation Project in Bihar has been going on;

(b) the estimated cost of the project and the cost escalation resulting from the delay in execution thereof; and

(c) the time by which the project is scheduled to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Chandil Dam is a component of the Subernarekha multipurpose project of Bihar which was started in the year 1979-80

(b) the originally sanctioned estimated cost of the project was Rs. 480.90 Crores and the revised estimated cost based on 1990 schedule is Rs. 1428.82 crores. The revision has taken place due to various reasons like cost escalation, increased liabilities on rehabilitation and resettlement and land acquisition and major changes in the design of dam.

(c) The Project is scheduled to spill over beyond VIII plan

Allocation made for Soil Conservation Scheme

1253. SHRI TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the amount allocated for soil conservation schemes to each State during the Seventh Plan and the Eighth Plan so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): The information is given in the statement below: