

Migrants (Determination by Tribunals Act, 1983 was reviewed and amendments were made in this Act in consultation with the Government of Assam in 1988. No further amendments are contemplated.

[English]

Prohibition Cases

*243. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the National Crime Records Bureau for the year ending 1991 indicates an increase in prohibition cases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-Wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether any investigation has been made to find out the reasons for this increase; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The latest available publication of the National Crime Records Bureau pertains to the year 1990. The figures compiled therein indicate a decrease of 16.3 per cent in prohibition cases in 1990 as compared to the previous year,

(b) to (d). In view of above, do not arise.

Oil and Gas Exploration Projects

*244. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the various oil and gas exploration projects in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of such projects under-

taken by foreign companies and whether all of them were successful;

(c) the total amount spent thereon during the said period; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to avoid precious foreign exchange paid to foreign companies for exploration work?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). A statement is attached.

The amount spent on oil and gas exploration by ONGC and OIL during the last 3 years are as under:—

	<i>(Rs. in crores)</i>		
	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
ONGC*	1093.17	868.85	1003.78
OIL	48.99	49.67	75.57

*In the case of ONGC the figures include depreciation cost also.

Under the 3rd round of bidding contracts were signed with foreign oil companies for 9 off-shore blocks. 9 wells were drilled which proved to be dry. The foreign companies spent about US \$ 100 million on this exploration.

Impact of Cyclonic Storm on ONGC Ship

2569. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Badrinath", a drilling ship of ONGC stationed in Bay of Bengal was caught in the cyclonic storm; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of losses suffered?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'Badrinath' a drill ship contracted by ONGC came under the influence of the cyclonic storm in Bay of Bengal from 13th to 15th November, 1991. On the 15th evening personnel on the drillship could be rescued with help of a helicopter. There was no loss of life or property in the above incident.

LPG Connections

2570. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the LPG connections sanctioned in 1990 out of the priority quota of Members of Parliament have been released; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). As reported by the oil companies, priority vouchers to all persons who were sanctioned LPG connections in 1990 on the recommendation of Members of Parliament has been released.

Exemption to Co-operative Societies in Delhi under Income-Tax Act

2571. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have been given power under the Delhi Co-operative Societies Act, 1972 to exempt from income tax the profits of any Cooperative Society;

(b) if so, whether any notification has been issued by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether the Government now propose to issue the notification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). No, Sir. Government of India has not issued any notification to exempt the profit of cooperative societies from the income-tax nor there is any proposal to issue such notification.

Credit to South Asian Countries

2572. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the country-wise amount of credit extended by the Government to the other countries in South Asia during each of the last three financial years;

(b) the total amount disbursed to and repaid by the respective borrowing country as on December 31, 1991;

(c) whether this credit is linked to any project in those countries; and

(d) if so, the particulars of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.