

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
(SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :**

(a) The boundaries of the Shillong Cantonment which was formed in 1885, are well-defined and have not changed significantly in the recent past. Civilian areas of the Cantonment, however, have become congested due to increase in civilian population and vehicular traffic in the Cantonment, as well as in the municipal areas.

(b) and (c) : Representations have been received requesting for the transfer of a few pockets of defence lands in Shillong Cantonment to the State Government These are being considered in consultation with the State Government.

Withdrawal by Chevron from contract for Prospecting for Oil in Saurashtra Coast

**539. SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRIMATI GEETA
MUKHERJEE :**

Will the Ministry of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the American oil major, Chevron, has withdrawn from its contract for prospecting for oil in the Saurashtra coast ;

(b) the number of foreign oil companies in contract with ONGC at the moment ;

(c) whether the withdrawal of Chevron will have an effect on the attitude of other foreign oil companies in entering into a contract with ONGC ; and

(d) whether ONGC is still optimistic of reaching its target of crude production by 1989-90 ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM
(SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) None.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Increase in the Cost of Crude

540. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the outgo in terms of rupees for the import of crude in 1984 ;

(b) whether as the result of the steep appreciation of the dollar, the outgo has sharply increased ;

(c) if so, the quantum of the increase expected this year ;

(d) whether the rupee outgo vis-a-vis the rouble for crude import has also increased ; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ease the burden ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM
(SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :**

(a) The outgo in terms of rupees for the import of crude oil in 1984 is expected to be Rs. 3495 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) It is not possible to project the increase expected during 1985 because it will be dependent on the fluctuating exchange rate.

(d) The pricing for import from USSR is done on dollar basis and the payments are made in rupees applying the agreed exchange rate. Therefore, there is no impact of rouble and rupee exchange rate on the import bill.

(e) Exploration and development effort is being intensified so that more

oil is produced from already discovered oil fields and new oil fields.

Streamlining the Distribution of LPG in West Bengal

541. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal had proposed a discussion with the Union Government to streamline the distribution of liquid petroleum gas to ease the crisis being faced by the domestic consumers ;

(b) if so, the result of the said discussion held between the representatives of the State and the Union Government ;

(c) the details of the points raised at the said discussion ; and

(d) if no discussion took place, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : A statement giving the requisite information is being placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

On the suggestion of the Government of West Bengal, a discussion took place on 29.1.1985 in Calcutta between Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, Government of West Bengal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and representatives of Oil Companies regarding supply of LPG in West Bengal. The position was reviewed at this meeting and the following decisions were taken with a view to improving the supply position :—

(i) Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation would augment the supply of LPG cylinders so as to wipe out the entire backlog by the end of February, 1985.

(ii) After the backlog in supplies has been cleared Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation would issue second cylinders against pending applications for second cylinders.

(iii) A copy of Control Order (for regulating distribution of LPG) which is being implemented by the Government of Gujarat in that State would be made available to Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, West Bengal as desired by him for drafting a Control Order in respect of West Bengal.

(iv) General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation, Eastern Region would prepare and make available to Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, West Bengal a consolidated list indicating areas in which help and assistance of the Government of West Bengal was needed by the Oil Industry in connection with the distribution arrangements for LPG.

A recent review of the position has shown that the backlog in West Bengal had become nil at the end of February, 1985. Second cylinders are being issued to consumers freely by the oil industry.

Steps to Improve the Functioning of Public Sector Pharmaceutical Companies

542. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :