

(b) No Sir.

(c) The steps taken to prevent smuggling include strengthening of Border Security Force to reduce the gaps between the border outposts, intensified patrolling, erection of O P Towers along the International border and supply of night vision devices, binoculars etc. for better observations, patrolling in the revering areas etc.

**Bids in fourth round of Exploration for Oil and Gas**

2703. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the last date for submission of bids in the fourth round of exploration for oil and gas in India has been extended;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the companies which had submitted bids in the three earlier rounds of exploration;

(d) whether any allotments have been made to any of those companies and if so, the particulars thereof; and

(e) whether any exploration is in progress as a result of first three round of exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The last date for submission of bids has been extended to 15.4.92 because of requests from various companies to allow them more time for evaluation of the blocks.

(c) and (d). In the First Round, British Petroleum, Phillips, Chevron, Texaco, Occidental and Deminex had submitted bid. Production sharing contract for only one block was signed with Chevron. In the Second Round, chevron had submitted bid but no contract was signed. In the Third Round, Chevron-*Texaco*, BHP, IPC, Shell, Amoco, Britoil and Albion had submitted bids. Production sharing contracts for nine blocks were signed with companies as shown below:-

<i>Name of Companies</i>	<i>Block for which contract were signed</i>
Chevron- <i>Texaco</i>	KG-OS-I, KG-OS-VII, P-GS-II and MN-OS-I
Amoco	KG-OS-V
Sheel	KK-OS-IV & KK-OS-II
BHP	KK-OS-VI
IPC	KG-OS-IV

(e) No, Sir.

**Post Lying Vacant in Lakshadweep**

2704. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of posts lying vacant in Union Territory of Lakshadweep,

category-wise; and

(b) the action contemplated by the Union Government for filling up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRIM.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). The information is