

(c) if not, whether Government propose to examine such feasibility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). ONGC have already carried out geological, gravity-magnetic and seismic survey in the area adjoining the Rann of Kutch. Two exploratory wells have also been drilled in this area.

Supply of mobikes by Hero Honda Motors Ltd., New Delhi

1126. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of deposits collected by Hero Honda Motors Ltd., New Delhi towards advance booking of its motor cycles; and

(b) the production capacity of the above company and how much time it will take to supply the mobike to those who have booked for it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) The Company has advised having collected about Rs. 25 crores as advance against bookings for motor-cycles.

(b) The licensed capacity of the Company is 2 lakh motorcycles per annum and it expects to clear bookings within 5 years.

Opening of Foreign Post Office at Varanasi

1127. SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a strong demand for opening a Foreign Post Office at Varanasi in view of heavy export of Varanasi Sarees etc., and carpets; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Government is examining the matter.

Hiring of premises at NOIDA by Bharat Leather Corporation.

1128. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bharat Leather Corporation's office at NOIDA on a monthly rent of Rs. 10,000 has been lying unoccupied for the last four and half years;

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

(c) whether any enquiry has been made in order to fix responsibility for hiring premises and wasting public money ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). The premises in question had been taken on a monthly rent of Rs. 2,254/- w.e.f. 4.9.1979 for the registered office of the Corporation. This rent was enhanced to Rs. 3,220/- per month w.e.f. 18.7.1984. The premises have been in use as the registered office of the Corporation.

(c) Does not arise.

Disposal of applications for expansion/ setting up of new units

1129. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of applications from various companies for expansion or for setting up new units were received during the years 1982-83, 1983-84, and 1984-85; if so, the details thereof, year-wise :

(b) whether any new foreign company has also applied; if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications which were referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during the above period and the action taken by the Commission thereon;

(d) the number of applications cleared by Government on the recommendations of MRTP Commission during the above period; and

(e) the number and details of the applications which are still pending for clearance, since when these are pending and the reasons for delay in taking the decision ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The number of Industrial Licence applications received under the provisions of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 for the grant of Letters of Intent during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 from various companies including the FERA companies is as under :

Sl. No.	Year	Total Number of applications received
1.	1982-83	1635
2.	1983-84	1545
3.	1984-85	2069

All the details of approved cases wherein letters of intent have been issued are regularly published in the monthly news-letter brought out by the Indian Investment Centre.

(c) and (d). Of the 16 applications referred to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during this period, 4 cases were closed owing to the applicants having withdrawn their applications and three cases were closed as approval was not necessary. Out of the remaining nine cases, reported by the Commission, seven were approved and one proposal was rejected by the Government. The proposal in the remaining one case has since been exempted.

(e) The details of pending applications are not divulged till the Government have taken final decisions thereon. Efforts are being made to dispose of all the pending cases and to ensure this, procedures have been streamlined.

Hiring of Drilling Rigs for Exploration of Oil

1130. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil drilling rigs engaged by India for exploring oil;

(b) how many rigs have been purchased and the number of such rigs which have been procured on hire during the last three years;

(c) the cost involved for the buying and what amount is being paid for hiring these rigs and from which countries they were procured; and

(d) the terms and conditions for hiring a rig ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The information is as follows :

Oil and Natural Gas Commission :

Onland : 54 (Owned)
2 (Charter hired)
Offshore : 8 (Owned)
6 (Charter hired)

Oil India Limited :

Onland : 6 (Owned)
Offshore : 1 (Charter hired)

(b) and (c). Oil and Natural Gas Commission

13 Onland rigs were purchased from BHEL whose price is yet to be negotiated. 6 Offshore rigs were purchased at a cost of approximately Rs. 263 crores from Japan (3) Singapore (2) and West Germany (1).

2 Onland rigs, one each belonging to an Italian and a West German company were taken on charter hire at a daily operating rate ranging between Rs. 1.38 to 1.70 lakhs. 10 Offshore rigs belonging to American companies were chartered whose daily rates ranged between \$ 16,689 to \$ 87,000.

Oil India Limited

3 Onland rigs were purchased from M/s