

Oil Exploration in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

4379. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to explore the possibility off-shore and on-shore drilling in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, how many such drillings have been done; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred and the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Exploration for hydrocarbons is in progress in Andaman and Nicobar basin since 1959.

(b) So far 7 wells have been drilled in offshore region only.

(c) Till the end of March 1985, the expenditure has been about Rs. 21 crores in this basin.

In one structure presence of gas has been established.

Investment in Central Government Undertakings in Orissa

4380. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the Central Government Undertakings operating in Orissa;

(b) the manner in which public sector investment can be used to promote industrialization of backward States like Orissa; and

(c) if there is no possibility of further public sector investment in backward States for economic reasons, whether Government propose to review the formula for distributing Central assistance amongst States and raise the same to give greater-weightage to disadvantaged States like Orissa especially because of its natural disadvantages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84 Volume I placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha on the 15th March, 1985 the total investment in the Central Public Enterprise Units located in Orissa represented by gross block is Rs. 2164.55 crores as on 31.3.84.

(b) Apart from the direct benefits of the investment, such investments also promote ancillary industries and generate secondary and tertiary industries. It creates income in the State and provides employment opportunities.

Public Sector Investment on infrastructure promotes the industrial development of the backward areas.

(c) The Central assistance during the Seventh Plan has been distributed according to the principles embodied in the modified Gadgil Formula *viz.*, Population 60%, per capita income below the national average 20%, per capita tax effort 10% and special problems 10%. The formula gives due weightage to economic backwardness of States. The National Development Council in its meeting held on 8th and 9th November, 1985, has approved the Seventh Plan including the allocation of Central assistance to States.

[*Translation*]

Allotment of Petrol/L.P.G. Agencies

4381. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the petrol pump and LPG dealership quota reserved for various categories of persons;

(b) whether agencies for petrol pump and LPG are allotted only to reserved categories of persons;

(c) whether Government also make arrangements for loans to persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes whose financial condition is not good; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). Appointments of Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) Dealers and LPG distributors are made in accordance with the following reservations for different categories :

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
Unemployed Graduates/ Unemployed Engineering Graduates (UG/UEG)	25%
Defence Category	7½%
Physically Handicapped (PH)	7½%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	5%
Others (O)	30%

(c) and (d). The Reserve Bank of India has already introduced a scheme of financing 75% of the requirement of funds to the dealers selected under Social Objective Categories including Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, with effect from January, 1984 through the Nationalised Banks.

Decline in Investment by non-resident Indians

4382. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been decline in investment in India by non-resident Indians during 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) if so, the number of letters of intent issued to non-resident Indians during 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) the details regarding the scheme of Government to attract non-resident Indians to make investment in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) ; (a) No, Sir.

(b) Since the constitution of the Special Approval Committee (NRI) in November, 1983, 115 letters of intent/permission/SIA registrations have been issued to the non-resident Indians as per details given below :

1983 (November and December)	6
1984	39
1985 (upto 30.9.85)	70

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

Facilities available to the Non-Resident Indians/Non-Residents of Indian nationality origin (NRIS).

1. NRIS are treated on par with the resident Indians. Their proposals for foreign collaboration, if required by them to set up the industrial unit, are also considered in accordance with the norms applicable to the resident Indians. However, for import of capital goods, required by them to set up the industrial units, they have been granted some special facilities as per details given under Para^s 166 to 171 of the Import Policy for 1985-88. The special facilities to NRIs for import of capital goods are restricted to only those who are returning home for permanent settlement. Under these special facilities, NRIs can import capital goods, which are available indigenously, provided they fully finance the imports from their own foreign exchange funds and further provided that the import of item in question is not banned as per the Import Policy.

2. NRIs can invest on non-repatriation basis upto 100% in any partnership/ proprietorship firms or limited companies (except those dealing in real estate business). They can also make portfolio investment according to the rules and regulations laid down by the Reserve Bank of India and the Ministry of Finance.

3. On repatriation basis, NRIs can invest under the 40% or 74% scheme. Under the 40% scheme, NRIs can invest in the new issues of existing and new companies raising capital through a public issue, upto 40% of the new capital issue, with full benefits of repatriation of the capital invested and income earned thereon.