

[*Translation*]

LPG Agencies In Gujarat

622. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies closed due to malfunctioning in Gujarat during last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the number out of them which have been permitted to function again; and

(d) the details of the agencies against whom investigations have not been completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). During the period 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (till October, 1992), 6 LPG distributorships were closed in Gujarat due to various reasons such as cancellation/suspension of licences by State Government authorities, release of unauthorised connections, dispute between partners, etc..

(c) Nil.

(d) 1. Dilip Gas Agency, Wankaner.

2. Damor Agencies, Madassa.

3. Mayur Agencies, Morbi.

[*English*]

Processing of Fruits and Vegetables

623. SHRI KALKA DAS: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of fruits and vegetables being processed in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government have assessed their demand in foreign countries, and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIGIRIDHARGOMANGO):

(a) to (c). The fruits and vegetables processing units set up in the country are capable of processing all types of fruits and vegetables. However, the prominent fruits and vegetables which are processed are mango, pineapple, guava, banana, papaya, apple, orange, peach, beans, potato, tomato, peas and onions. No market survey to assess the demand of processed fruits and vegetables in foreign countries has been conducted. However, Agricultural and Processed Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has made a general assessment of the export potential of processed fruits and vegetables. APEDA has estimated that India could achieve exports of 1,30,000 tonnes processed fruits and vegetables by 1996-97. APEDA has formulated a number of schemes to boost the exports of processed fruits and vegetables.

[*Translation*]

Development Of N.C.R.

624. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had advised several Chief Ministers on December 19, 1991 to formulate schemes within one month for balanced development of the National Capital Region;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have handed over the schemes to the Prime Minister and the estimated amount likely to be spent on these schemes;

(c) the manner in which the Union and the State Government proceed to mobilise funds; and

(d) whether a time-bound programme is being formulated to implement these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No Sir, However, while addressing the 15th meeting of the NCR Planning Board held on 14th September, 1992, The Prime Minister desired that the concerned Central Ministries immediately prepare time-bound programmes for infrastructure development relating to roads, rail services, power and telecommunication facilities in NCR, as per the Regional Plan-2001.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Apart from the major NCR related infrastructure schemes which are expected to be taken up by the concerned Central Ministries in the VIII plan period, NCR Planning Board plans to raise requisite funds for State Sector schemes using the budgetary support of Rs. 200 crores allocated to the Board in the VIII Plan along with matching contributions from the NCR States/Delhi UT Admn., financial assistance of major institutions in the nations housing sector and funds raised in the capital market. In addition, provision has been made for floating joint stock companies at that local level to raise equity funds from the private sector as and when necessary.

(d) Yes Sir.

[English]

Private Sector Companies in the Field of oil Exploration

625. SHRIMATI VASUNDHAR RAJE : Will the minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the private sector companies given oil fields for explorations during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether most of the proven oil fields have been handed over to private parties; and

(c) if so, the reasons for handing over proven oil fields to private sector for exploration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Government have approved the award of contract for four blocks to private sector companies under the fourth Round.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign and Private Investment in Oil Exploration Sector

626. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC propose a fresh offer of blocks of oil fields in a bid to attract foreign and private investments in the oil exploration sector;