

Commission is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

In Foreign Countries.

496. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has signed any agreement to set up Turbines in the other countries during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Bihar

497. SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the places in North-Bihar where drilling work for exploration of oil and natural gas has been undertaken so far and the results thereof;

(b) the action being taken by the Government to continue the drilling operation in Dullanipati of Madhubani district and Raxaul and Bagah in East and West Champaran respectively.

(c) whether the Government propose to shift drilling machinery and concerned office from Bihar; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). ONGC has drilled six wells in Bihar, namely, Purnea-1, Raxaul-1, Gandak-1, Madhubani-1, Ganauli-1 and Radmaha-1, without any discovery of commercial hydrocarbons. In the absence of encouraging leads to support further drilling, ONGC has decided to shift its rig from Bihar but an office will be maintained in Bihar. ONGC has planned 1230 SLK of Seismic surveys in Bihar in the 8th Plan. Oil India Limited has also applied for a Petroleum. Exploration Licence for 17,500 sq. kms. in Bihar which has been recommended by the Central Government but this has remained pending with the State Government for quite some time. O.I.L also intends to start seismic surveys in Bihar once this licence is granted. Resumption of drilling can only depend on encouraging leads from future surveys.

[*English*]

Suspension of Supply of Crude Oil by Malaysia

498. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malaysia has unilaterally suspended supply of crude oil against the contract signed between the two countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the outcome of the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issues involved in the suspension of crude oil by Malaysia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.