

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Counterfeit Notes

2351. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan, as a part of a plan to destabilise India, has, through its network of smugglers and anti-national elements, pumped thousands of counterfeit notes into India recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to this nefarious activity of Pakistan and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Nothing specific has come to the notice of the Government so far in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Retail Outlets on Compassionate Ground

2352. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of allotments of petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies he is allowed to make under the compassionate grounds in a year;

(b) the details of LPG agencies and retail outlets allotted under the compassionate grounds during the last two years;

(c) the qualifications and conditions for becoming eligible for such allotment; and

(d) the total investment made by oil corporations during the last two years for commissioning of such allotments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Discretionary allotments of dealerships/distributorships are made by Government on compassionate grounds in deserving cases keeping in view the circumstances of each case, including the recommendations of MPs and other VIPs. Accordingly, 69 retail outlets and 116 LPG distributorships were allotted by Government since April, 1992 till date.

(d) Oil Marketing Companies invested Rs. 144.92 lakhs on the commissioning of 39 such dealerships/distributorships.

Dividends by Public Sector Companies

2353. PROF. UMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether five public sector oil companies have presented dividends of approximately Rs. 50 crores recently;

(b) whether this amount of dividend was an increase over the last financial year;

(c) if so, the respective investment in equity and loans to the above five pub-

lic sector oil companies which gave a total dividend of Rs. 50 crores;

(d) whether the profit shown by these companies is not satisfactory from the point of view of efficient investment; and

(e) the steps proposed to run these companies efficiently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) There are twelve Public Sector Companies (PSCs) under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas which pay dividend to the Government of India. They have recently paid a dividend of Rs. 207.05 crores for the year 1992-93.

(b) This amount of dividend was Rs. 35.09 crores more than the dividend paid by these Cos. for the year 1991-92.

(c) to (e) As the five Cos. have not been specified it is not possible to furnish these details.

Income Sources for ONGC

2354. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS:
SHRI SUBRATA MUKHERJEE:

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

(a) whether frequent increases in the prices of crude has become the main source of income for ONGC instead of production of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND

NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

The price of indigenous crude produced by ONGC has been increased during September, 1992 when the prices were revised from Rs. 1021/MT to Rs. 1506/MT. The earlier revision was made during July, 1981.

Joint Gas Pipeline

2355. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran has made a fresh offer to set up a joint gas pipeline for both India and Pakistan from Quesham Island in the Normoz Straits;

(b) whether alternatively Tehran has offered to extend the pipeline project to India-friendly neighbouring countries like Nepal and Bhutan; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction to the Iranian offer on gas pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Memorandum of Understanding signed with Iran envisages supply of gas ex-Iran through a pipeline to be laid by a third party to be jointly identified after a pre-feasibility study.

Oil Production

2356. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have floated or propose to float tenders for the second round of bidding for discovered