

implemented. This capacity would be sufficient to meet the projected demand in future, with the demand in the year 2001-2002 estimated to be approximately 102 MMTPA.

Hydel Power Project at Farakka Barrage

1391. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for construction of a hydel power project at Farakka Barrage has been approved by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for inordinate delay; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (d). Farakka Barrage Hydro Electric Project with an installed capacity of 5 × 25 M.W. in under consideration of the Government. The Project will be approved after obtaining all statutory clearances.

[Translation]

Demand of Natural Gas

1392. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has demanded gas to set up gas based power plants during the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans;

(b) if so, the quantum of gas demanded by the Government of Gujarat;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the details of the quantum of gas likely to be given for these power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). The Government of Gujarat has demanded gas to set up gas based power plants including the proposed plant at Pipavav. 7.55 MMSCMD of gas has been allocated to power plants in Gujarat. As the gas projected to be available is fully allocated, it is not feasible to consider any further allocation at present.

Exploration Activities

1393. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to increase oil exploration activities in collaboration with foreign oil companies;

(b) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has received any proposals from the Government of Kuwait to undertake joint oil exploration; and

(c) if so, the reaction and response of the Indian Government to the proposal of Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): A delegation from Kuwait visited India in January 1995. They expressed willingness to participate in exploration programme in India. However, no formal proposal in this regard has been received from Kuwait so far.

Closure of LPG Agencies

1394. SHRI LAL BABU RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

" (a) the number of gas agencies closed down in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor and the number of agencies out of them which have been allowed to restart; and

(c) the details of agencies against whom the enquiry has not been completed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Four LPG distributorships were closed (terminated) in Bihar during the last three years.

(b) Three distributorships were terminated due to various malpractices and one distributorship was terminated in pursuance of Court orders.

(c) None, Sir.