

Oil and Natural Gas Resources

2458. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have taken any special security steps to protect the oil and natural gas resources belt in desert of Kutch; and

(b) If so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) and (b). The exploratory efforts made so far by ONGC in the desert areas of Kutch in Gujarat State have not established any oil and gas reserves. Hence, the question of taking special security steps in the area does not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds

2459. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for increase in fund allocation ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Planning Commission have not received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for increase in fund allocation for the Annual Plan 1995-96 after it has been finalised in a meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and the Chief Minister of Kerala.

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

Petrol Retail Outlets

2460. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to state :

(a) the names of the persons included as members in the Madhya Pradesh Oil Selection Board;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued any directives to this Board for recommending allotment of petrol dealership;

(c) whether the recommendations made by the above Board are binding;

(d) the total number of the cases recommended by the above Board so far for allotment of petrol dealership in Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) the number of the cases in which the Government have accepted such recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e). Oil Selection Boards (OSBs) have been constituted by the Government for selection of dealers/distributors of petroleum products on the basis of interviews of the eligible candidates who apply in response to the advertisements of the Oil Marketing Companies. Recommendations of the OSBs are not referred to the Government for consideration. These are sent by them to the concerned Oil Companies for issue of Letters of Intent. Composition of the OSB for Madhya Pradesh is as under:

1. Justice H.L.Gupta(Retd.) : Chairman
2. Shri Shiv Balak Passi : Member-I
3. Shri Ratnakar Pandey : Member-II

Till January, 1995, the OSB (Madhya Pradesh) has recommended merit panels for 97 retail outlet dealerships.

LPG Connections

2461. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications in the waiting list of LPG connections as on December 31,1994 in Agra and other districts falling under Taj restricted area ;

(b) the scheme formulated by the Government to provide LPG connections to these persons; and

(c) the time by which LPG connections are likely to be provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) As on 31.12.1994, there were about 1.08 lakh persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in the Taj Trapezium area.

(b) and (c). Government has planned to clear the waiting list as on 1.1.1995 by 1.4.1996.

LPG Agencies

2462. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies closed down in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ;