

any plan for the co-ordinated implementation of various self employment programmes operated by the Central and State Government agencies; and

(d) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The news item is based on the Planning Commission's paper on "Employment Generation in the Eighth Plan" placed before the Consultative Committee attached to the Ministry of Planning and Programme Implementation. The Paper deals with the employment goals and strategies of the Eighth Plan including special employment schemes, an assessment of employment growth during 1992-95 and future prospects.

The State Governments are advised during the Annual Plan discussions to take steps to dovetail self-employment programmes implemented by them with those of the Central Government agencies so as to enhance their impact.

Oil and Gas Fields to Private Parties

718. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are evolving a novel procedure to award oil and gas fields to private parties for development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the scheme is likely to be beneficial; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

New Exploration Projects

719. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new exploration projects either by indigenous entrepreneurs or with foreign collaboration are under consideration of the Government at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be cleared and the reason for delay in clearing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c) Government of India has signed four contracts for exploration of oil and gas under the Fourth Round of bidding with consortia consisting of Indian and foreign companies. Additionally contracts for one block under the Fourth Round and 6 blocks under the Fifth Round of exploration bidding have been approved for award subject to finalisation of contract terms and conditions. Under the 6th, 7th and 8th Rounds of bidding a total of 20, 12 and 33 bids respectively have been received. These are under consideration of the Government. Negotiations with bidders were in progress and clarifications had been sought from them. Award of contracts for these blocks are likely to be finalised shortly. On 15.3.95, Government of India has offered 28 blocks for exploration of oil and gas under the joint venture exploration programme. The last date for receipt of bids in 15.9.95.

Hydrocarbon Fuel

720. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are finalising a Hydrocarbon-Fuel for private sector participation in Thermal and Hydel Power generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (c). The Government is already following a policy of allocating Hydro-carbon fuels to public and private sector applicants for thermal power generation. The allocation is made after taking into consideration the recommendation of the Ministry of Power and the views of the Oil Company as well as the Oil Coordination Committee in respect of availability of fuel and the logistics of supply. On request of the Ministry of Power, a paper on the subject has been sent to them.

Telephone Instruments by Subscribers

721. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to stop supply of telephone instruments to the subscribers at their premises in Metro cities with effect from 1-4-95;

(b) if so, the present status of this proposal;

(c) whether this proposal has been shelved; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?