

[Translation]

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

938. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

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

(a) the names of places where oil exploration projects are going on, on the Indo-Pak border;

(b) whether exploration for natural gas and hydro-carbons is also being undertaken in these areas;

(c) if so, the number of oil, natural gas and hydro-carbons reserves found in the entire dry area on the Indo-Pak border; and

(d) the action taken for exploitation of oil, natural gas and hydro-carbons reserves in the entire border region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b). On the Indo-Pak border exploration for hydrocarbons is being carried out in Jaisalmer and Bikaner/Nagaur basins in Rajasthan and areas around Kalakot-Rajouri in the State of J&K.

The work is in 1st phase of exploration in block RJ-ON-90 1 falling in the districts of Barmer and Jalore of Rajasthan and Banas Kantha in Gujarat, which was offered to private Indian and foreign companies for exploration under the Fourth Round of bidding.

(c) As on 1.4.95 ONGC has established gas reserves of 1322.9 MMm³ in 5 structures in Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan. OIL has also established gas reserves of 8422 MMm³ in another 5 structures in Jaisalmer basin and 14.60 MMT in-place reserves of heavy oil in Bikaner-Nagpur Basin in Rajasthan.

(d) The gas production in Jaisalmer basin from an ONGC field started on 16.9.1994 for supplying to a power plant in Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan. In the same area, development of O.I.L gas field is in progress and production is expected to start by early 1996-97.

So far as heavy oil in Bikaner-Nagpur basin is concerned, wells have been tested on experimental basis and reputed International Agencies have been consulted for the optimal production from this field, which requires specialized technology presently not available in the country. These fields have also been offered for private participation in the Joint Venture Round of exploration bidding and bids received are under evaluation.

Reservation to Backward Classes in Educational Institutions

939. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal for providing reservation of seats to the students belonging to backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c). The Government is considering the matter.

Telephone Connections in Orissa

940. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone connections released in Orissa during each of the last three years, district-wise;

(b) the number of applications pending under different categories; and

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The district-wise details is given in enclosed statement.

(b) 15211 applications are pending in Orissa as on 31.1.1996.

Category-wise detail is as under :

(i) OYT : 2

(ii) Non-OYT Special : 132

(iii) General : 15077

(c) The waiting list is likely to be cleared progressively by March, 1997. However, National Telecom Policy 1994 envisages provision of telephone on demand by 1997 throughout the Country including Orissa.

STATEMENT

Telephone Connections Released During Last 3 Years (District-wise) in Orissa

Sl.No.	District	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
		(upto Jan. 96)		
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Anugul	459	296	453
2.	Balasore	360	1082	793

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Baragarh	421	340	452
4.	Bhadrak	225	438	410
5.	Bolangir	482	642	672
6.	Boudh	112	64	133
7.	Cuttack	2975	2439	2612
8.	Deogarh	218	200	310
9.	Dhenkanal	946	671	887
10.	Gajapati	403	321	602
11.	Ganjam	1307	520	2504
12.	Jagatsinghpur	436	402	481
13.	Jajpur	413	310	414
14.	Jharsuguda	348	359	402
15.	Kalahandi	255	390	373
16.	Kendrapura	416	312	435
17.	Keonjhar	543	602	680
18.	Koraput	435	347	523
19.	Malkangiri	226	194	343
20.	Mayurbhanj	475	1070	805
21.	Nayagarh	361	410	350
22.	Nowrangpur	230	230	315
23.	Nuapada	130	125	177
24.	Phulbani	315	275	217
25.	Puri	1080	826	532
26.	Rayagada	402	359	490
27.	Sambalpur	958	668	1197
28.	Sndargarh	2305	838	911
29.	Subranapur	57	95	248
30.	Khurda	3728	3813	3692
Total		21021	18638	22413

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Retail Outlets

941. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

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

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Kerala where survey has been conducted for the allotment of petrol retail outlets and LPG agencies;

(b) whether the Government has identified areas for allotment of these agencies;

(c) whether the Government has fixed any target plan for Kerala State during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (e). Retail Outlets are opened at locations meeting Industry's Volume-Distance Norms. LPG distributorships are opened at locations having population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner subject to economic viability of the location and product availability and not Gram Panchayat-wise. Based on the feasibility survey conducted by the Oil Industry, 43 retail outlets and 48 LPG distributorships have been included in the RO Marketing Plan 1993-96 and LPG Marketing Plan 1994-96 for Kerala. Marketing Plans are not prepared as per Five Year Plans. Selection of dealerships/distributorships from the locations included in the earlier Marketing Plans are current Marketing Plans is in progress as per prescribed procedure through Oil Selection Board (Kerala & Lakshadweep). No targets can be fixed for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships as the same depends on number of factors such as number of locations advertised, number of candidates appearing for each interview, completion of necessary formalities by the LOI holder, etc. It generally takes about 1-2 years for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of issue of advertisement.

[Translation]

Closure of Coal Mines

942. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to close down certain coal mines in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely effects on the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c). Other than a likely closure in the next three years of the (a) Bellora Opencast (b) Bellarpur Expansion Opencast and (c) New Majri Opencast Sector A Projects owing to exhaustion of coal reserves, there is no proposal to close down any coal mine of Coal India Limited in Maharashtra.

[English]

Demands of the Employees of DRC

943. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the grievances