

(a) whether a large quantity of crude oil deposits have been found recently in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the exploration work has been carried out; and

(d) the quantity of oil expected from this annually?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (d). Substantial reserves of oil have been established by ONGC and OIL in Assam. Recent discoveries include those at Kathaloni, Hatiali and Cachar. Further exploration is continuing.

New discoveries are required to be delineated before estimates of production can be made.

Limestone Deposits

4688. SHRI LAETA UMBREY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are large deposits of lime stone in Arunachal Pradesh and the North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) (a) and (b). The recoverable reserves of limestone in Arunachal Pradesh and North Eastern States have been estimated as follows:

| <i>State</i> | | <i>Recoverable reserves (in thousand tonnes)</i> |
|--------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Arunachal Pradesh | — 108,529 |
| 2. | Assam | — 731,792 |
| 3. | Manipur | — 6,657 |
| 4. | Meghalaya | — 4,268,196 |
| 5. | Mizoram | — Nil |
| 6. | Nagaland | — 308,348 |
| 7. | Tripura | — 80 |

Quota of LPG Connections

4689. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to fix a

quota of LPG connections per month on the recommendations of senior LPG Manager and Chief Area Managers in the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Assistance for Plantation of Oil Palm in A.P.

4690. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend further financial assistance for plantation of oil palm in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to release the funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have proposed establishment of oil palm seed gardens, nurseries, extraction units and area expansion programmes.

(c) A sum of Rs. 38 lakhs has been released towards the Government of India share for the establishment of a seed garden and palm oil extraction unit in Andhra Pradesh.

Development Prawn Aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh

4691. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to promote prawn aquaculture in the abundant brackish waters available along the coast of Bay Bengal in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the incentives so far provided to these farmers who are involved in prawn culture;

(c) whether there is any proposal to allot certain percentage of lands to Scheduled Caste farmers for aquaculture in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in the Eighth Five Year Plan to develop the prawn aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of about Rs. 39.50 lakh has so far been given as subsidy to the prawn farmers in Andhra Pradesh, for prawn farming, under different programmes.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. As per the Order issued by the Government for development of Andhra Pradesh in 1987, 60% of the beneficiaries would be fishermen cooperatives, 20% would be self-employed technocrats and the remaining 20% would be progressive entrepreneurs, for leasing of brackishwater land for prawn farming.

(e) Some of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for development of brackishwater aquaculture in Andhra Pradesh, during the Eighth Five Year Plan include:

(i) implementation of a World Bank assisted shrimp culture project,