

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

[Translation]

Oil and Gas Exploration In Rajasthan

*415. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the particulars of the agencies engaged in exploration of new sources of oil and natural gas in Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) the places where the exploration work is going on;

(c) the amount incurred thereon during the said period; and

(d) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL).

(b) At present work is going on in several locations including Dangiwala, Ghotaru and Manhera Tibba structures by ONGC and in Bikaner-Nagaur Basin by Oil India Limited.

(c) During the last three years (1988-89 to 1990-91) ONGC has spent Rs. 50.30 crores and OIL has spent Rs. 49.80 crores on exploratory drilling and surveys in Rajasthan.

(d) ONGC has discovered gas in Rajasthan at 5 places viz. Bhakri Tibba, Bankia, Ghotaru, Khartar and Manhera Tibba. OIL has discovered gas at Tanot, Ramgarh, Dandewala and Jalalwala in Jaisalmer basin and heavy oil at Baghwala in Bikaner-Nagaur basin.

Horticultural development in Karnataka

*416. SHRI KODAKANI GOWDANA SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted to the Union Government a horticultural development project with EEC assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has sought for delinking of its project from rest of the States; and

(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): No formal proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) to (d): Do not arise.

Blackmarketing of Fertilizers

417. SHRI SHASHI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some dealers are blackmarketing fertilizers especially after the introduction of dual pricing policy;

(b) if so, the number of persons apprehended so far, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check blackmarketing of fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b): The

Government of India receives from State Government periodical reports about quality control and black-marketing of fertilisers. During 1991-92, when the dual pricing was introduced only Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported 16 cases of blackmarketing of fertilizers.

(c): The price of fertiliser is regulated under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the State Governments are empowered to take legal action in cases of sale of fertilisers at prices higher than the maximum fixed statutorily. Surprise raids/checks are conducted by State Governments from time to time. Seizure of stocks, suspension/cancellation of dealership, launching of criminal proceeding etc., are some of the measures taken against the offenders.

Oil Palm Plantation

*418. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing financial assistance to States for raising oil palm trees;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to each of the oil palm growing States during 1991-92;

(c) the area under oil palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh at present and the area proposed to be brought under such plantation during the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a factory for the extraction of palm oil in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The financial assistance so far provided by Government of India to the oil palm growing States during 1991-92 is as under:-

	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
Andhra Pradesh	311.55
Karnataka	350.51
Maharashtra	114.61
Gujarat	31.02

(c): So far an area of around 1600 ha. has been brought under oil palm cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. It has been proposed to bring another 2000 ha. under oil palm plantation during the current year.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. One oil palm extraction plant of one MT FFB per hour capacity is under construction at Pedavegi in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. Another oil palm processing plant of suitable capacity will be established in joint sector under oil palm demonstration project.

Production and Storage Technologies

*419. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA
WASNIK:
SHRI MORESHEAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to further improve the technologies of production and storage and also to provide adequate marketing facilities to the farmer; and