Scheme to Market 2T Oil Meant for Two Wheelers

6523. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation is launching an ambitious scheme to market 2T Oil specially meant for two wheelers in filter proof polythene pouches:
- (b) if so, whether this new packing will meet a long-standing need of the oil industry which has been trying for years to overcome the problem of adulteration in lubricants;
- (c) whether the new packing will result in considerable foreign exchange savings; and
- (d) if so, to what extent and the time by which the Union Government are implementing the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Pilferproof pouches for 2T oil are being introduced by IOC on a trial basis in Delhi and Pune.

(b) Yes, Sir. The main purpose of this scheme is to ensure supply of quality products for two/three wheelers.

The pilfer-proof pouches (c) and (d). will replace containers made of tin plates and steel sheets. Whenever indigenous availability of plates and sheets fall short of the total requirement, the balance quantity has to be imported. As these pouches are made of materials indigenously available foreign exchange occasionally required for import of tin plates and steel sheets will be saved.

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Extension of the scheme to other areas will be considered after assessing the market acceptability of the products in pouches at the above two places.

Bids for Contract of On-Shore Drilling

6524. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the response of the Indian companies to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission's recent bids for contract of on-shore drilling has been far below the anticipated level:
- (b) if so, whether only 15 of over 30 Indian parties that had purchased the tender papers have submitted their bids;
- (c) if so, the main causes of the poor response by the Indian companies;
- (d) whether structural short-comings in the tender conditions and applications were

the main causes of the poor interest shown by the Indian firms; and

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(e) the steps being taken by Government to accommodate the Indian Companies rather than opting for foreign firms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). No, Sir. This is a specialised job and is being undertaken by Indian entrepreneurs for the first time. As such the response is considered adequate.

- · (c) Does not arise.
 - (d) No, Sir.
- (e) The tenders were limited only for Indian entrepreneurs and thus the question of opting for foreign firms does not arise.

Foreign Collaboration Agreements for Production of Oil-Field Equipment

6525. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether oil industry has proposed that foreign collaboration agreements for production of oilfield equipment should be finalised only after consulting the user companies;
- (b) if so, whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Ltd. which are the main buyers of such equipment, should compulsorily participate in the finalisation of these agreements; and
- (c) if so, whether this decision would ensure that the equipment manufactured by Indian companies meet the oil companies' specifications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) This suggestion has been made by Oil India Limited.

- (b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.
 - (c) Does not arise.

Cooking Gas Connections in Kerala

6526. SHRI K. MOHANDAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any step is being taken to give large number of cooking gas connections in all the districts of Kerala;
- (b) whether the demand is being fully met; and
- (c) if not, the steps being taken to meet the demands fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Release of new LPG connections will be continued in Kerala during 1985-86 within the target of 17.50 lakhs for the country.

(b) and (c). Cochin Refinery being the primary LPG source for Kerala Markets, supplies were adversely affected following the fire in the Refinery in March, 1984. Rescue supplies were arranged from alternate sources and 70% demand of the customers could be met. These arrangements are being continued and customers, requirement is expected to be met in full as soon as production at the Cochin Refinery stabilises.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Pathanathitta District of Kerala

6527. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Post Offices upgraded in the Pathanathitta district of Kerala after the formation of this district and the places where they are located;
- (b) whether telegraphic and other facilities are still not available in many of these upgraded Post Offices including the Post Office of Kadammnitha; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken to provide these facilities in these Post Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) 30.