

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) There were 321 sick wells as on 1.1.86 in the following regions:-

Eastern Region	122
Western Region	187
Bombay Offshore	12
	321

(b) The phenomenon of wells falling sick over a period of time and their liquidation is a continuous process. Some of sick wells are taken up for liquidation shortly after sickness. Most of the wells are liquidated within a period of sixth month to one year while a few may take upto two years depending upon the nature of the sickness and the operations to be carried out.

(c) Soviet experts are already assisting ONGC for liquidating sick wells in Gujarat. Two more contracts have been entered into with Soviet assistance for supply of work-over rigs associated equipment, spares and services of Soviet experts.

#### Recruitment of Local People by ONGC at Sibsagar

3211. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment of all classes of employees in the Oil & Natural Gas Commission at Sibsagar has been kept in abeyance for several months ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) whether recruitment in other regions of the Commission has been continuing without any break and if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The recruitment to decentralised posts in all the Regions is being conducted according to needs.

#### Strategy for Reduction in Import of Petroleum Products

3212. SHRI K. V. SHANKARA GOWDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering certain proposals to reduce the imports of petroleum products ;

(b) if so, the strategy Government propose to adopt to reduce import of petro-goods ;

(c) whether his Ministry has expressed concern on the trend of increasing dependence on hydro-carbons for the supply of commercial energy which is contrary to the declared policy of Government to reduce the share of crude oil and gas in the total energy consumption ; and

(d) when final decision in this regard is ilikely to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government is making all possible efforts to contain the growth in importing of petroleum products. As outlined in the Seventh Plan the strategy of the Government against the increase in demand consists in restricting growth in imports, improving refining capacity and secondary processing facilities and curbing consumption of products in different sectors of the economy.

(c) and (d). In order to reduce dependence on hydro-carbons for the supply of commercial energy, the Seventh Five Year Plan has programmes for the development of hydel projects, coal sector, social forestry and other non-conventional energy sources like bio-mass, solar energy, etc.

#### Impact of Foreign know-how on Automobile Industry

3213. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the impact of introduction of foreign know-how in automobile industry ; and

(b) whether Government propose to fix ceiling prices of new cars manufactured by