

has plans to increase its Watch production as follows :—

Year	Annual estimated production (Nos. in lakhs)
1986-87	50.00
1987-88	60.00
1988-89	61.80
1989-90	61.80

(c) No proposal has been received from M/s. Titan Watches Ltd., for entering into a collaboration agreement for manufacture of Casio Watches in India.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Allotment of Gas Agencies in Gujarat

32. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of gas agencies allotted in various districts of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the number out of them allotted to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, women, ex-servicemen, widows, disabled, blind persons and minority communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :
(a) and (b) Oil Industry has awarded 93 LPG distributorships in various districts of Gujarat during the last three years, i.e. 1984-86 and out of them 21 and 13 distributorships have been awarded under 'SC/ST' and 'Physically Handicapped' categories, respectively. There is no separate reservation for women, ex-servicemen, widows, blind

persons and minority communities and as such no statistics are separately maintained on them.

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Refinery Project at Mangalore

33. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA
WADIYAR :
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
DR. V. VENKATESH :
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
SHRI S.M. GURADDI :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE :

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

(a) whether the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has undertaken the programme of setting up a Refinery Project at Mangalore in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the capacity and cost of the project and the technology proposed to be adopted in that project;

(c) the total area of land identified for the location of the Refinery Plant and the township;

(d) the steps taken to execute the project at an early date; and

(e) when it is likely to be commissioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :
(a) to (e) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has been permitted to prepare a detailed project report for a 3 MTPA petro-chemical refinery at Mangalore,

jointly with a private co-promotor. HPCL have initially identified an area of about 1800 acres for this purpose. The details of the cost, the technology proposed to be adopted and the likely date of commissioning will be known only after the detailed project report is ready and a decision is taken thereon.

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

34. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the projects taken up by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Bay of Bengal for the exploration of oil and natural gas, especially in the 'E' Zone of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) the upto-date results of the exploration by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) ONGC has taken up seismic data acquisition and exploratory drilling in offshore areas of Bengal, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Andaman basins.

(b) Hydrocarbon have been discovered by ONGC in G-1, G-2, GS-8 structures in Krishna-Godavari offshore, PH-9, PY-1 and PY-3 structures in Cauvery offshore and AN-1 structure in Andaman offshore.

Containerised Electronic Exchanges Lying Unused in Bombay

35. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some containerised electronic exchanges in Bombay are lying unused for the past several months;

(b) if so, the names of such Exchanges, the period for which these are lying unused and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the consequent loss to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. and the steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Question does not arise.

Ban of Opening of New Post Offices

37. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a ban on the opening of new post offices in cities like Bombay;

(b) if so, the justification thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Government hope to meet the growing postal needs of the urban people in the future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) No Sir. There is no ban on opening of new post offices as such. However, there is a ban imposed by the Ministry of Finance on creation of new posts. If there is a clear and pressing justification for a new post office and if matching savings can also be located such proposals are taken up with the Ministry of Finance for exemption from the ban.

(b) The question does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

(c) Reviews have shown that by and