

[Translation]

**LPG agencies at Chambal division in
Madhya Pradesh**

1172. SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tehsils in Chambal Division of Madhya Pradesh where LPG agencies are proposed to be opened;

(b) the number of gas agencies, out of them to be allotted to Harijans and Adivasis, separately; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and further action being taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b) Oil industry has planned to introduce LPG facility in the following Tehsils in Chambal Division of Madhya Pradesh; the selection process in respect of them has been initiated :

| S. No. | Name of the Tehsil | Name of the District | Category |
|--------|--------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 1. | Ambah | Morena | SC |
| 2. | Sabalgarh | Morena | Open |

(c) Does not arise.

[Drilling by ONGC in Bihar

1173. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some years ago the Oil and Natural Gas Commission had drilled upto the depth of 5400 feet in Betia district of Bihar to explore oil reserves and drilling was stopped thereafter due to development of cracks;

(b) whether Government have already spent about Rs. 40 crores on this project; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to extract oil from the oil reserves at the depth of six thousand feet in Betia ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, ONGC had drilled one well 'Gandak-1' upto 5314 metres near Betiah in West Champaran district of Bihar. This was a parametric well and drilling was terminated on achieving the geological objective. The cost of the well was about Rs. 15 crores.

(c) As no oil reserves have been established in the area, the question of extraction of oil does not arise. However, further exploration in the basin is continuing.

[English]

**Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project,
Kerala**

1174. PROF. K.V. THOMAS :
SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project report of Pooyamkutty Hydro-electric Project submitted by Kerala Government has been rejected;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether this project is being reconsidered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) to (c) The