

(a) the number of Karnataka State Public undertakings which have requested the Company Law Board for the appointment of Statutory auditors for audit these two years accounts;

(b) if so, whether the Company Law Board propose to give permission for taking up audit work of these Public Undertakings by the statutory auditors for two years' accounts simultaneously;

(c) the number of requests for other Karnataka State Public Undertakings pending with the Company Law Board in this regard; and

(d) the maximum time likely to be taken to appoint statutory auditors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIM. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Under Section 619 (2) of the Companies Act, 1956, the auditors of a Government Company are appointed or reappointed by the Company Law Board on the *advice* of Comptroller & Auditor General of India. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India has not recommended appointment of auditors for a period of two years at a time in respect of any Karnataka State Government Company during 1988-89.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

#### **Joint Venture for Oil Exploration**

7624. SHRI H.A. DORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to launch a joint venture for oil exploration in Malaysia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b). Oil & Natural Gas Commission is evaluating the proposals for exploration in Malaysia on its own as well as in collaboration with other oil companies. Proposals for overseas exploration are examined by Government after taking into account all relevant factors including the prospectively of the areas available for exploration and availability of resources.

#### **Gas Based Waste Heat Recovery Plant in Maharashtra**

7625. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the third unit of the gas based waste heat recovery plant in Maharashtra has been techno-economically approved by the Central Electricity Authority as well as the Planning Commission;

(b) if not, whether the proposal is held up for want of availability of gas on sustained basis; and

(c) the steps taken to confirm the availability of gas to the unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c). The proposal of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board for the installation of the third Waste Heat Recovery Unit at the Uran Gas Turbine Station has been techno-economically cleared by the Central Electricity Authority. Commitment of gas for the proposed unit has not been made to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board at present. The proposal could be processed for investment decision when the availability of gas is confirmed.