

cases of major fire incidents in high rise building reported in the capital during 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): No incident of major fire in the high rise buildings was reported in 1988.

Ocean areas given to Foreign Countries for Exploration of Ocean Wealth

637. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some ocean areas are given to foreign countries for exploration of ocean wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the number of cases, names of the foreign companies and terms and conditions thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to explore ocean wealth; and

(d) whether any experiment has been made recently, if so, the details thereof and the result achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b). As far as the Department of Ocean Development is concerned, no ocean area is being explored with the help of any foreign country. Some contracts have been signed by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Ltd. with foreign oil companies for oil exploration, in order to supplement the indigenous exploration activities. The details about the number of cases, names of foreign companies, terms and conditions thereof are given in the Statement below.

(c) Government have been exploring ocean wealth through its various agencies like the Department of Ocean Development, Department of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Department of Mines, Ministry of Agriculture, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, central Electricity Authority, Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, etc.

(d) As a result of R&D work on harnessing of wave energy from the sea, the Department of Ocean Development has sponsored a pilot plant which is being set up at Vizhinjam which is likely to have an installed capacity of 150 KW at peak level.

STATEMENT

<i>Name of foreign oil Companies with whom contract signed</i>	<i>Name of block for which contract signed</i>
1	2
1. Chevron International Ltd. & Texaco Exploration India Inc.	KG-OS-I
2. — do —	KG-OS-VII
3. — do —	P-OS-II

1

2

4.	— do —	MN-OS-I
5.	International Petroleum (Bermuda) Ltd.	KG-OS-IV
6.	BHP Petroleum (India) Inc.	KK-OS-VI
7.	Shell India Production Development B.V.	KK-OS-II
8.	— do —	KK-OS-IV
9.	Amoco India Petroleum Co.	KG-OS-V

The salient features of these contracts are:

1. Foreign oil company will explore for petroleum at its own risk and cost.
2. If there is a commercial discovery, ONGC/OIL will have the option to participate forty percent in development and production of the discovery.
3. If ONGC/OIL decides to participate, it will contribute 40% of development and production costs and remaining 60% will be borne by the foreign oil company.
4. ONGC/OIL will be entitled to the corresponding share of oil produced for its participation.
5. The foreign oil company's share of oil will be available to the Government at international market price till India reaches self-sufficiency.
6. After recovery of costs, the contractor will share petroleum with the Government on a sliding scale basis. Government's share of petroleum will increase as the economics of the project improves.
7. The contractor will pay tax at the rate of 50% on its profits.
8. ONGC/OIL will not contribute to exploration costs but it will be associated with the foreign company's work right from the beginning.
9. The entire data acquired by the foreign company will be available to ONGC/OIL.
10. The assets acquired for permanent use in petroleum operations would become ONGC's/OIL's property once the cost recovery for such assets is claimed by the foreign oil company, without any further payment by ONGC/OIL.