

Residential accommodation taken on lease by oil companies

2151. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private residential accommodation that has been taken on lease by each of the public sector oil companies in Calcutta, Delhi, Bombay and Madras;

(b) whether it is a fact that the lease period is being extended unilaterally by the public sector oil companies;

(c) the number of petrol outlets that have been established in these 4 metropolitan cities by each of these public sector oil companies on leasehold plots and even after the expiry of such leases these public sector oil companies have not taken steps to vacate such plots; and

(d) the number of cases that have been filed in courts against these public sector oil companies by the owners of residential accommodation and plots on which petrol outlets are there?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Private residential accommodation taken on lease by the four public sector marketing oil companies, namely Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Indo-Burma Petroleum Company (IBP) in the four metropolitan cities is as follows:—

IOC	...	...	283
HPC	...	...	139
BPC	...	...	107
IBP	...	...	29

(b) It is not a fact that lease periods are being extended unilaterally. Leases are renewed by negotiations and by increasing rentals where necessary. Besides, wherever necessary, occupancy is continued under the local tenancy laws and in exercise of the

rights of the oil companies under the respective Acquisition Acts in respect of take-over of foreign oil companies. There are also cases where the oil companies have surrendered flats on expiry of lease periods.

(c) There are 773 Retail Outlets on leasehold plots including the plots which have been taken on lease from Government authorities. In 153 cases the leases have expired.

(d) There are 30 cases in respect of Retail Outlets and 55 in respect of residential accommodation against the oil companies in various courts.

Setting up of a Tidal Wave Power Station in the Gulf of Kutch

2152. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a Rs. 2.18 crore project to find out the feasibility of establishing a tidal wave power station in the Gulf of Kutch with the assistance of French Experts;

(b) if so, the reasons for not taking up the Ocean Thermal Power Conversion Scheme that has been formulated by the Tamil Nadu Government for which U.S. Experts had promised to give a feasibility report;

(c) whether a central monitoring agency has been set up to keep an eye on all thermal power stations in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to eliminate slipage of power stations in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The Government have approved a proposal for taking up investigations and studies in the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat to establish the feasibility for generating energy from tidal waves, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 2.18 crores. The project envisages utilisation of foreign technical assistance. Since there is an agreement between the Central Electricity Authority and the

Electric De France (EDF), Paris for collaborative effort in the field of power development, the possibility of securing assistance of French Experts to assist in the planning of the proposed investigations is being explored.

(b) As the R&D in respect of the Ocean Thermal Power Conversion technique is still at a very preliminary stage and no actual installation of even 1 MW OTEC Plant is in operation or has so far been built anywhere in the world, the offer of the US Experts to make preliminary design of a 25 MW OTEC Plant was not considered worth while for taking up at this stage especially as it involved outflow of free foreign exchange.

(c) and (d). While the power planning is with the Central Government, the execution of power projects, their operation and maintenance etc. is mainly with the State Governments and State Electricity Boards. Considering the importance of thermal power stations on the energy scene an operation and monitoring unit has been set up in the Central Electricity Authority to watch and review the performance of thermal power stations and to advise on remedial action required for the proper operation and maintenance of the thermal power stations. In the interest of speedier execution of new thermal projects a monitoring cell has been set up in the Central Electricity Authority. The progress of construction and timely availability of plant and equipment is reviewed periodically in various meetings with the project authorities where various inputs and their availability are critically appraised and remedial action suggested. The Ministry of Energy also reviews the progress of construction and performance of the projects from time to time and renders necessary help to meet the requirements of material and equipment so that slippage is minimised. Several Power Minister's Conferences have also been organised to review the performance of power stations and to monitor the execution of new projects.

Oil Exploration by foreign multinational Companies

2153. SHRI B. D. SINGH:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR
SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal to have some foreign multinational companies for the oil exploration in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that a separate Directorate to deal with the foreign multinational companies is proposed to be set up;

(c) if so, the decision, if any, taken by Government; and

(d) the reasons for dissociating the ONGC from the oil exploration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to invite offers from selected foreign oil companies for oil exploration contracts in India in certain areas.

(b) and (c). The setting up of a suitable organisation to monitor and control various activities relating to the exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country is being considered. But no decision has yet been taken.

(d) No, Sir. ONGC is not being dissociated from the oil exploration work in the country. Instead the ONGC is being given every possible assistance and encouragement to maximise its efforts.

Cost of Power Generation per Unit

2154. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cost of generation per unit (MW) of hydro electric thermal, tidal, wind, geo-thermal and atomic energy: