

**Decision to invite foreign oil companies for exploration**

435. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR;  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA;

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government have decided to invite foreign oil companies having sound technical and financial capabilities to take up oil exploration and production in 42 offshore and 8 onshore blocks;

(b) whether the invitation to foreign companies have been given due to the lack of requisite technology to the ONGC and OIL;

(d) if yes, then name the International Oil Companies and what will be the criteria and point of agreement regarding this?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign oil companies have been invited in order to supplement the maximum efforts of ONGC and OIL in the search for oil.

(c) The last date for submitting bids is January 15, 1983 and so far no bids have been received.

(d) Does not arise.

**Distribution of newsprint**

436. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to distribute newsprint to newspapers through the State Governments instead of State Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(c) whether State agencies like civil supplies and public undertakings will take the delivery of the newsprint, arrange for its stocking and distribution of the newspaper;

(d) when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHR N. K. P. SALVE): (a) to (d). Imported newsprint will continue to be distributed through the State Trading Corporation. The indigenous newsprint will also continue to be distributed under the distribution system of the concerned mills. As the number of depots, through which newsprint is distributed is limited, it was proposed to augment the facilities for distribution of newsprint to the newspapers through cooperatives, State Governments' distribution agencies. It is envisaged that the newspapers will be free to take deliveries either direct from the State Trading Corporation and the concerned indigenous mills, or through the cooperatives or the State Government distribution agencies. The proposal is being pursued with the State Governments.

**Stepping up Centre's Share in Power Generation**

437. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL  
KOCHAK:

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken to gradually step up the Centre's share in power generation;

(b) if so, whether the proposed scheme for creation of additional capacity includes the setting up of five Regional Electricity Authorities under the Central Electricity Authority;

(c) if so, what will be the main purpose of this; and

(d) whether all the States have accepted this decision of Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) are setting up a number of large regional thermal and hydro-electric power projects in the different regions of the country, for meeting the