

state whether any portion of the arms and ammunition and defence materials captured in Bangladesh during the last December struggle have been or are being handed over to Bangladesh Government?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : It would not be in public interest to answer this question.

Separation of Indo-Burma Petroleum Company from I.O.C.

861. **SHRI S.C. SAMANTA :**
SHRI ARVIND NETAM :

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

(a) the reasons for which the Indo-Burmah Petroleum Company which had been taken over by the Indian Oil Corporation has been separated from the Indian Oil Corporation and is now to operate as an independent unit;

(b) the implications of this arrangement and to what extent Indian Oil Corporation stands to lose or gain because of this;

(c) the sums of money paid to M/s. Steel Brothers from whom the Indo-Burmah Petroleum was bought over and what would happen to the investment ; and

(d) the constitution of the new arrangement of the India-Burmah Petroleum?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE, AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI H.R. GOKHALE) :

(a) With the acquisition by the Indo-Burmah Petroleum Company Ltd. (IBP) of controlling interest in Balmer Lawrie and Company Ltd. and thereby in the four subsidiaries of Balmer Lawrie, i.e. (i) Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd; (ii) Steel Containers Ltd; (iii) Industrial Containers Ltd; and (iv) BIFCCO Lawrie Ltd,

the non-petroleum business of the IBP Group has vaantly increased. On the other hand the task already in hand of IOC is very large; complex and growing. It has accordingly been decided that as a first step, pending further reorganisation, IBP, along with Balmer Lawrie and the latter's four subsidiaries, may function independently under the direct control of Government.

(b) The implications of this arrangement will be that the President of India will purchase IOC's share holding in IBP from IOC at the latter's cost price. The IOC will, therefore, not stand to lose or gain on its investment by transfer of these shares to the Government. As for the return on this investment, IOC has been getting from the IBP by way of dividend about 14% on the book value of these shares as against IOC's average return on capital employed of 19.5% in 1971-72.

(c) The sums of money paid by IOC to M/s. Steel Brothers for purchase of 5,79,400 shares in IBP in January, 1970 was Rs. 73,13,477. The IOC will be paid this amount in full during the current financial year itself whereafter the investment will vest in the Government.

(d) The reconstitution of the Board of Directors of the IBP will be made after the share holding is actually transferred to the Government.

Offer to convert their Indian Companies into joint ventures by Esso and Burmah Shell

862. **SHRI NIHAR LASKAR :**
SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN :

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

(a) whether Esso and Burmah Shell are renewing their bid for a decision on their offer to convert their Indian Companies into joint ventures;