

**Burning of Gas by Burmah Oil Company**

33. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Burmah Oil Company is burning energy (gas) because they have not been allowed profits at the rates demanded by them; and

(b) if so, why this national waste has been allowed and the steps taken to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM (SHRI K. D. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Certain quantities of Natural Gas produced by Oil India Limited in which Burmah Oil Company Limited have 50 per cent share, are flared because of shortfall in lifting by consumers in relation to the off-take indicated by them earlier. The off-take of the consumers of gas produced by Oil India Limited is expected to improve. Moreover, a project for extraction of L.P.G. from the gas produced by Oil India Limited is under consideration.

**Private and Public Limited Companies in Eastern and North Eastern Region States**

34. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private and public limited companies operating in

Eastern and North Eastern Region States, State-wise during the current year; and

(b) the number of Companies which have been closed down during this period in these States?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA): (a) The number of private and public limited companies operating in each state of the Eastern and North Eastern Region at the end of the year 1974-75 is as under:

State	No. of companies		
	Public	Private	Total
Assam	97	499	596
Bihar	108	570	678
Meghalaya	13	35	48
Orissa	71	238	309
West Bengal	2755	8211	10966
Tripura	2	9	11
Manipur	2	4	6
Nagaland	2	9	11
Arunachal Pradesh	..	..	..
Mizoram	..	1	1
TOTAL	3050	95,6	12626

(b) The number of companies which were reported during 1974-75 to have ceased functioning either by

going into liquidation or by being struck off under Section 560(5) of the Companies Act, 1956 in each State of the Eastern and North Eastern Region in as under:

State	No. of companies ceased functioning		
	Public	Private	Total
Assam	..	..	..
Bihar	2	9	11
Meghalaya	..	..	..
Orissa	1	1	2
West Bengal	6	44	50
Tripura	..	..	..
Manipur	1	..	1
Nagaland	..	..	..
Arunachal Pradesh	..	..	..
Mizoram	..	..	..
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>

**Profits Earned by News Paper Industry**

35. SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of profits earned by the Newspaper Industry in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of Newspapers which have registered profits during last year; and

(c) the number of units which have registered loss during that period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI BEDA-BRATA BARUA): (a) According to a study made in the Department of Company Affairs in respect of 18 leading newspapers—9 in English and 9 in Indian languages published and owned by twelve companies registered under the Companies Act, the aggregate profits before tax of these companies, after allowing for the losses made by some of them, during the last three years were as under:

Accounting Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
		Profits before tax
1971-72	..	28.73
1972-73	..	404.68*
1973-74	..	247.30

\*The data relates to 11 companies.

(b) and (c). Of the twelve companies studied, nine companies registered profits and three companies registered losses during the last year, i.e. 1973-74.