

unskilled manual work to the rural poor who are in need of employment and seeking it and in the age group of 18 to 60 years. A maximum of two adults per family are to be provided employment under the scheme. In order to give special emphasis on backward districts in the country, the Intensified JRY was also introduced during 1993-94 in 120 selected backward districts of the country which have a concentration of unemployment and under-employment.

Besides the wage employment programmes, self-employment programmes are also being implemented through out the country to provide self-employment opportunities to the rural poor. IRDP is the major self-employment programme which aims at providing financial assistance to the rural poor for taking up self-employment activities. The financial assistance is given in the form of Government subsidy and term credit from banks. The target group for IRDP consists of small and marginal farmers, agricultural labour and artisans below the poverty line. Safeguards are also provided for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and physically handicapped.

The Government has strengthened the poverty alleviation programmes during the Eighth Plan with a view to providing a better safety net to the poor during the period of reforms. A number of new initiatives have also been taken to improve the efficiency of the programme for creating better self-employment opportunities. This includes raising of level of investment, targetting of credit, increase in allocation for infrastructure development, encouragement to group activities and introduction of a new category of beneficiary for educated unemployed.

[English]

#### Supply of Gas

\*108. SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state .

(a) the rate of per cubic litre gas supplied to Assam and Tripura; and

(b) whether the Government is agreeable to supply the gas to Assam and Tripura at par rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The price of natural gas in both Assam and Tripura is Rs. 1000 per thousand cu.mtrs. There is also a provision for a discount of Rs. 400 per thousand cu mtrs on a case to case basis

#### Domestic Oil Products

\*109 DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA :  
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had appointed a

committee to study opening up of the domestic oil products market;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations; and

(d) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d). Government has constituted a 'Strategic Planning Group' on restructuring of the National Oil Industry with members comprising of top management from public and private sector and leading experts from academic and research institutes. The group has not yet submitted its report.

[Translation]

#### Backward District

\*110. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government have formulated any programme for the development of backward districts.

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to include certain districts of Bihar in the said programme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) (a) to (c). The Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for this purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission helps the States, including Bihar, in overcoming the problems of backwardness through Special Area Programmes and allocation of Special Central Assistance under Tribal Sub-Plan in addition to providing weightage for backwardness in the formula for normal Central Assistance.

#### Multi-National Companies in Oil Sector

\*111 SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether there is large scale entry of Multi-national Companies in oil sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has urged the Government to prevent the monopolising of the market by these MNCs.

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). The oil sector has been opened up for private investment including investment by multi-nationals in the exploration and production of oil and gas, as well as refining and marketing of petroleum products. The details of foreign companies participating in such investments in the oil sector are given in the attached Statement

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Do not arise

#### STATEMENT

(a) *Exploration and production of Oil and Gas*

There have been nine rounds of bidding for exploration and two rounds of bidding for the development of small-sized and medium-sized fields under production sharing arrangements. The details of the contracts awarded to consortia involving foreign companies are given below :

#### FOURTH ROUND :

Name of Company	Name of the block
1	2
1 Consortium Comprising M/s Albion International Resources, Inc. of USA, Complex Resources Limited of Australia, M/s Nike Resources Canada and HOEC of India.	KG-OS-90/1 in Krishna Godavari Offshore Basin
2 Consortium Comprising M/s Pan Energy Resources, USA, Stirling Resources Australia, Okland Oil Company, USA, Pan Pacific Petroleum NL, Australia and Trans Asia Consultants, India.	GK-ON-90/2 in Gujarat Kutch Onshore Basin
3 Shell International, Netherlands	RJ-ON-90/1 in Rajasthan onshore basin
4 Consortium of HOEC of India, Vaalco Energy Inc. of USA and Tata Petrodyne of India.	CY-OS-90/1 in Cauvery offshore basin

#### FIFTH ROUND

1 HOEC, India-Tata Petrodyne, India-Vaalco Energy, USA	CY-OS/2 in Cauvery offshore basin
2 Command Petroleum, Australia - Videocon, India	KG-OS/6 in Krishna Godavari offshore basin

1	2
3 Rexwood - Okland Corporation USA.	GK-OS/5 in Gujarat - Kutch Offshore Basin.
<b>SIXTH ROUND :</b>	
1. HOEC, India - Vaalco Energy Inc. USA Tata Petrodyne (P). Ltd. India	CB-OS/1 in Cambay Offshore basin.
2 Samson - International Ltd., USA	CB-ON/7 in Cambay onshore basin
3. HOEC, India-Samson International Ltd. USA - Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation, India.	CB-ON/2 in Cambay onshore basin
4. Command Petroleum Holding NL, Australia, Tata Petrodyne (P) Ltd., New Delhi.	CB-OS/2 in Cambay offshore basin

#### DISCOVERED FIELDS :

#### SMALL-SIZED FIELDS :

Name of Company/consortium	Field
1. Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (GSPC, India - Niko Resources, Canada	Hazira, Cambay Bhandut, Matar and Sabarmati
2 Larsen and Toubro, India-Joshi Technologies, USA.	Dholka, Wavel
3. HOEC, India - Mosbacher Energy Co., USA Petrodyne Inc. USA	PY-1
4. HOEC, India - GSPC, India - Petrodyne Inc. USA	Asjol

#### Medium-Sized fields

1 Enron, USA - Reliance Industries, India	Mid and South Tapti Mukta and Panna
2 Essar Oil Ltd., India and Premier Oil Pacific, U.K	Ratna and R-Series
3 Command Petroleum, Australia - Videocon India - Marubeni, Japan	Ravva
4 Compagnie Geofinanciere, France - Enpro Services India	Kharsang

**(B) Marketing, Distribution and Supply of Natural Gas**

GAIL has signed a Joint Venture Agreement with M/s. British Gas Plc., U.K. for the purpose of marketing, distribution and supply of natural gas in Mumbai.

**(C) Refining :**

(i) HPCL has set up a Joint Venture Company, Hindustan Oman Petroleum Company Limited with M/s. Oman Oil Company, Oman for setting up a 6 MMTPA grassroots refinery at Deoghar in Maharashtra.

(ii) BPCL has set up a JVC, Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd. for setting up a 6 MMTPA grassroots refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh.

(iii) Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), a National Oil Company of Kuwait has been selected by IOC with the approval of Government as Joint Venture partner for setting up a 6 MMTPA grassroots refinery in Eastern India.

The Government has also approved the following two grassroots refineries :

(i) A refinery of 7 MMTPA capacity near Rae Bareilly in U.P. under Joint Venture between Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Shell International.

(ii) A refinery in Punjab of 6 MMTPA capacity under Joint Venture between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation and Aramco, a company of Saudi Arabia.

**(D) Manufacture and Marketing of Lubricants and Development of Infrastructure**

The Government have approved the formation of following JVCs for manufacture and marketing of lubricants within the country :

1. IOC Mobil JV - IOC has formed the JVC with Mobil International Petroleum Inc., USA for blending and marketing mobil brand lubricants.
2. BPCL - Shell JV - A JV between BPCL and Shell Overseas Investments for blending and marketing of Shell brand high performance lubricants.
3. HPCL - Colas JV - A JV between HPCL and Colas, SA of France for manufacture of bitumen.
4. IBP Caltex JV - A JVC between IBP and M/s. Caltex Petroleum, USA for manufacture and marketing of lubricants and greases.
5. Balmer Lawrie - NYCO JV - Balmer Lawrie and Company has formed a JVC with M/s. NYCO, SA of France and IOC for manufacture of special purpose lubricants.
6. Balmer Lawrie - Fuchs JV - Balmer Lawrie and Company has formed a JVC with M/s. Fuchs Petrolub, AG, Switzerland for blending and marketing of lubricants.

7. A Joint Venture has been formed for setting up oil terminalling facility between IOC, IBP and M/s. Oiltanking GmbH of Germany.

8. MRL - Chevron for manufacture of Lube Additives.

9. Other Multi-Nationals who have obtained approval for investment in development of infrastructure like port facilities and LPG bottling plants and marketing of LPG are as follows :

- (a) M/s. Southern LPG Limited.
  - (b) M/s. Western Energy India Limited.
  - (c) M/s. Hindustan Aegis LPG Bottling Company Limited.
  - (d) M/s. Western India Industries Limited.
  - (e) M/s. Punjab Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
  - (f) M/s. Western India Petroleum Ltd.
  - (g) M/s. Petronas India Holding Company Ltd.
  - (h) M/s. ELF Gas India Limited.
  - (i) M/s. National Engineering Industries Ltd.
10. Balmer Lawrie - Van Leer, Netherland for the manufacture of Plast Drums.
11. Balmer Lawrie - Tectranas - Okura for the manufacture of Marine Freight Containers

[English]

**Amendment in Electricity Act**

\*112. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have proposed some reforms/measures to provide Energy for all by 2012 AD and amend Indian Electricity Act, accordingly;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also considered the draft renewable energy policy as suggested by the Sharad Pawar Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to allow the private firms to distribute power generated from renewable energy sources and imposition of a carbon cess to fund non-conventional energy projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES. (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) No, Sir. However, steps to improve the physical and financial performance of the electricity sector including restructuring of State Electricity Boards have been initiated. The various legal provisions governing the electricity industry are also being reviewed so as to facilitate augmenting the availability of electricity in the country.