

(a) whether any seismic survey was conducted during 1996-97 in Bay of Bengal to identify the Hydro Carbon deposits along the East Coast and around Andaman Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the data collected pertaining to Hydro Carbon deposits;

(c) the progress made so far in extraction in these areas;

(d) whether any multinational company has come forward to invest under New Exploration Licensing Policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1996-97, ONGC conducted seismic survey and acquired 3383 line kms. of 2D seismic data in the area of Vizag, Yanam and mouth of river Krishna in KG Offshore along the East Coast. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) also acquired a total of 11035 line kms. of 2D seismic and gravity-magnetic data in the Eastern Offshore and Andaman Nicobar deep water areas of Bay of Bengal.

(c) The seismic data acquired by ONGC is under interpretation. One location has been identified for drilling based on earlier acquired data. The data acquired by DGH has been processed, interpreted and integrated with some of the earlier data acquired by National Oil Companies in the adjoining shallow water areas. Several large structures and, new geological plays have been mapped. As a result, twelve deep water blocks have been carved out for offer under first round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).

(d) and (e) NELP is yet to be operationalised. However, deep water data has been seen by 23 foreign and domestic oil companies. Seven companies have purchased the data.

LPG Supply

2581. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide any LPG dealership in Assam particularly in Jalpaiguri District;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 38 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan

1996-98 for Assam. 4 LPG distributorships have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996-98 for district Jalpaiguri, West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Base Depot of FCI

2582. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of base depots of Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh for supplying foodgrains under targetted Public Distribution system/general public distribution;

(b) whether these depots are sufficient to meet the requirement of the State;

(c) the names of the districts of the State where base depots have not been setup so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to open more base depots in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; location-wise;

(f) the details of the base depots where the foodgrains are not being supplied simultaneously; and

(g) the time by which the supply of these foodgrains is likely to commence therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) There are 61 nominated issue points in Madhya Pradesh for storage and supply of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Out of these 61 storage issue points, 39 Centres are used for issuing foodgrains under both APL and BPL while 22 Centres are used for issuing foodgrains under BPL, only.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There are no FCI Depots in Districts of Bhind, Shivpuri, Rajgarh, Raisen, Panna, Mandsaur, Shajapur, Sehore, Korla, Umaria, Neemuch, Kawardha, Janjgir, Korba, Dantewada, Badwani and Harda.

(d) and (e) In Dhamatari of Arjuni, FCI has already constructed a 10,000 MT godown and the operations will commence shortly. A proposal to construct godowns at Katni and Kapa of 20,000 and 25,000 tonnes capacity, respectively, is under consideration.

(f) and (g) There are at present 22 issue points from where foodgrains under only BPL are being issued (statement enclosed).