

[English]

Oil Exploration in Barmer

3769. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shell India Production and Development Ltd. has explored oil in Barmer, Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the area of the oil field and the amount invested on drilling;

(c) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has given option to stake in the venture; and

(d) if so, the percentage of stake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) M/s Shell India Production and Development BV Netherlands, who have been awarded contract for exploration block RJ-ON-90/1 in Barmer Basin are carrying out exploratory activities in an area of 8887 sq. kms. There is no expenditure on drilling so far.

(c) and (d) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) has not exercised its option to take 10% participating interest at the time of signing of Contract. However, as per the provisions of contract, ONGC has an option to take 30% of participating interest, after commercial discovery.

Activities of NSCN(M) after Cease-Fire

3770. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the existing cease-fire between the Union Government and the Nagaland Socialist Council of Nagaland (M) the people are still suffering from kidnapping, extortion, threats and so on in the hands of the NSCN (M) cadres;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the scope and jurisdiction of this existing cease-fire?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) There are reports of kidnappings and extortions committed by NSCN (I/M) cadres. Security forces have been instructed to take strict action in all such cases and to proceed against such violators under law.

The current cease-fire is between the Government of India and the NSCN(I/M) as an organisation.

It has, *inter alia*, been agreed that during the Cease-Fire, the NSCN (I/M) would not undertake offensive operations like ambush, raid, sniping, and attack leading to death/injury/damage or loss of property; there would be no parading; (either in groups or individually) of NSCN (I/M) cadres in uniform and/or with arms; there would be no blockade of roads and communications, disruption of economic or developmental activities as well as essential services by the NSCN (I/M); no safe haven or sanctuary to any armed group or elements will be maintained; and forcible collection of money on essential supplies and intimidation of individuals including Government officials would be prevented.

Petroleum Exploration

3771. SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil India Limited has undertaken half-way its targeted petroleum exploration venture in the basin of river Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal;

(b) whether no exploratory drilling is being undertaken by the company despite encouraging results of earlier drillings;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the latest position in regard to exploration project in Orissa and adjoining offshore in the Bay of Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) During the period 1978-1990, Oil India Limited (OIL) carried out about 3814 GLKM and 13943 LKM of seismic survey including processing and interpretation in Mahanadi Onshore and Mahanadi offshore and North East Coast offshore areas respectively. Additionally, aeromagnetic and deep seismic sounding were also carried out. Based on the geoscientific data several wells were drilled to probe the hydrocarbon

prospects in various geological plays available in the area. Although most of the wells could be drilled down to the objective depths, a few wells had to be abandoned due to severe down-hole problems encountered before reaching the objective depths. No commercial hydrocarbon prospects, however, could be established in any of the wells. Despite various geoscientific studies carried out by a firm of international repute, no hydrocarbons were discovered. OIL has already surrendered its petroleum exploration licence in the State of Orissa and North East Coast in Bay of Bengal. Nine blocks are proposed to be offered in offshore Mahanadi & North East Coast (NEC) area including four blocks in deep water areas under New Exploration Licencing Policy.

[*Translation*]

**Intensive Development in Insurgency
affected States**

3772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had given directions to State Governments to have co-ordination in matters of intensive development, road construction and providing communication facilities in terrorist and naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the scheme to be formulated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar. Government of Bihar has been advised to speed up their socio-economic programmes.

[*English*]

Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi

3773. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government purpose to establish a memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Washington DC; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Memorial is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Embassy of India, Washington is working towards it.

(b) The architecture of the memorial is required to be approved by the concerned statutory bodies in Washington. Work for the completion of the memorial will be undertaken thereafter. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate any definite time frame in this regard at present.

New Delhi Municipal Council

3774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council has not sent any electricity and water bills during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NDMC has sent Electricity and Water bills in lump sum and also charged 3% surcharge on the arrears;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether NDMC have received a large number of requests to accept the bill with surcharge in installments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of the NDMC?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There was a gap of about seven months from September, 1996 to March, 1997 when NDMC could not send bills to the consumers because the contract awarded to a private contractor for preparation of electricity and water bills had to be rescinded on account of certain irregularities and it took NDMC some time to set up an in-house computer system for the purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The surcharge of 3% is levied only when the consumer defaults in making full payment against an earlier bill.