

exploration and development work in Rajasthan and as a result 11.17 BCM of gas reserves and 14.60 MMT of heavy oil reserves have been established.

(e) There are plans for carrying out exploratory activities and development drilling in the IX Plan in Rajasthan. An outlay of Rs.192 crores has been earmarked by OIL during IX Plan for the above activities. This is excluding on capital equipments and other facilities. ONGC has also earmarked an amount of Rs.64.16 crores for exploratory work in Rajasthan during 1996-97 to 2000-01.

(f) Government of India at present has no proposal to set up any new oil based public sector in Rajasthan.

[English]

Restoration of Commuted Pension

27. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commuted portion of the pension of the Central Government employees is restored after 15 years but in Punjab and Haryana the commuted portion is restored after 12 years;

(b) whether Government realise that the way inflation is rising, there is a need for the restoration of commuted pension after 10 years; and

(c) whether Government would also like to refer it to the Pay Commission to sympathetically consider this matter and make suitable recommendations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c). In the case of Central Government pensioners the commuted portion of pension is restored after 15 years. These orders were issued in 1987. Pensioners in Government are compensated against price rise by way of payment of dearness relief on pension at regular intervals. The matter relating to State Government pensioners is the concern of respective State Governments. In some States, the commuted portion of pension for State pensioners is restored before the period of 15 years. There is, at present, no proposal to reduce the number of years for the restoration of commuted pension. The terms of reference of the Fifth Central Pay Commission include 'to examine, with a view to having a proper pension structure for pensions, the existing pension structure including Death cum Retirement Benefits and make recommendations relating thereto which may be desirable and feasible. This would *Inter alla* cover commutation of pension, and the matters related to the same.

[Translation]

Allotment of Bitumen

28. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of Bitumen in metric tons to the Bihar Government by the Union Government in the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the supply orders given by the Bihar Government to supply Bitumen in metric tons during these years to the Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum, Company-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the transporters did not make available to Bihar a larger portion of Bitumen allocated to Bihar Government; and

(d) if so, whether the Central Government are considering to take any action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The quantities of bitumen allocated to the Government of Bihar in the years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :-

(fig. in MT)

Year	Quantity
1992-93	90000
1993-94	88000
1994-95	78000
1995-96	100600

(b) The quantities of bitumen for which supply order were given by the Government of Bihar to IOC, BPC and HPC are given below :-

(Fig. in MT)

Year	IOC	BPC	HPC
1992-93	29300	20492.53	23940
1993-94	49500	15116.72	46255
1994-95	41000	26329.70	20000
1995-96	56800	15922.03	20050

(c) No, Sir.

(d) does not arise.

Illegal Power Connections

29. SHRI CHHATRAPAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether many factories/industries are being run with illegal power connections with the connivance of

employees of electricity department in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such employees/officials?

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) and (b). The supply and distribution of power within the State is done by the State Electricity Boards. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, has reported that they have no knowledge of any factories/industries being run with illegal power in connivance with the departmental employees. The State Electricity Board can initiate action under the provisions of the act for theft of electricity and illegal power connection given in connivance of the employees of Electricity Board, if such cases are reported to the Board.

Oil Exploration

30. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil exploration and development blocks awarded by the Government to small and medium companies are being sold by them at a premium;

(b) if so, the number of cases in which the oil exploration and development blocks have been resold by the allottee companies;

(c) the considerations which weighted with the Government to award the oil exploration and development blocks to these companies and the conditions, if any, on which contracts were awarded; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Government for the re-sale of awarded oil exploration and development blocks by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b). Government is not aware of such selling by companies. However, the contracts provide for assignment or transfer of a part of all of its participating interest by companies with approval of Government. In the case of KG-OS-90/-1 block such re-assignment/transfer has been allowed by Government.

(c) The reasons for offering the oil Exploration blocks and discovered oil & gas fields for private participation include :-

- (i) Marginal Economics of some of the fields.
- (ii) Low reserves of the small fields offered.
- (iii) to augment total investment in exploration and development.
- (iv) To help augment the oil/gas production by way of quickly putting these fields on production.

(v) For the application of enhanced oil recovery processes.

(vi) To induct the latest managerial and technological practices.

The salient terms and conditions on which exploration blocks and discovered oil & gas fields have been awarded are as under :-

The contracts of exploration blocks are Production Sharing Contracts with a contract period in case of crude oil and associated gas, of upto 25 years. Companies are exempted from payment of bonuses and statutory levies. The Government of India would have the first right of refusal in respect of the oil produced under these contracts, with companies being paid for their share of oil at international prices. Provision for participation by ONGC/OIL in the vent at the exploration and/or the development stage has been made and ONGC/OIL can take a participating interest of 30% to 40% in the venture. Provisions have also been made for the development of commercially exploitable natural gas resources.

The medium-sized fields would be developed through joint ventures between Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGCL)/Oil India Ltd. (OIL) on the one hand and the private companies on the other. ONGC/OIL would take a 40% share in the venture. The small-sized fields would be developed by companies on their own, with no participation by ONGC/OIL, under production sharing contracts to be signed by the companies with the Government of India. In both cases, companies would also be required to bear their share of statutory levies like royalty, cess, etc. Foreign companies involved in oil exploration would be levied income-tax at a fixed rate of 50% while Indian companies would be governed by the relevant provisions of the Income-Tax. In addition private companies would share profit oil with the Government.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Employment Policies

31. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve States in framing the employment policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has prepared a draft proposal for implementation during 9th Five Year Plan in this regard;

(d) the details regarding the formation and implementation of the programme regarding unemployment;