

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY) : (a) Permits for Chartering and Leasing of foreign fishing vessels were granted to Indian companies. Number of such foreign fishing vessels permitted yearwise is as follows :-

| year | Charter | Lease |
|---------|---------|-------|
| 1994-95 | 34 | 20 |
| 1995-96 | 9 | 25 |
| 1996-97 | Nil | Nil |

(b) At present there are two foreign fishing vessels operating under Charter and ten such vessels operating under Leasing. Permits of vessels under charter will expire on 9.4.1997 and last of the permits for leasing will expire in the year 2000 A.D.

Resources Mobilisation by State

3908. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the State Governments have not mobilised the desired quantum of resources during the Eighth Plan resulting in stoppage of various development works and increase in financial burden on Union Government; and

(b) if so, the action, proposed to be taken by the Government against the States which have not mobilised the resources ?

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) The outlay for Eighth Five Year Plan (1992-97) was fixed at Rs. 175,485 crore at 1991-92 prices which was to be funded through States Own Resources of Rs. 95,954 crore and Central assistance of Rs. 79,531 crore. As against this the anticipated resources mobilised works out to Rs. 138,658 crore at 1991-92 prices which includes States Own resources of Rs. 69,679 crore and central assistance of Rs. 68,979 crore. Thus the States are expected to realise about 79% of the approved Eighth Plan. Several states could not realise the committed resources shortfalls have been mainly in the balance from current revenues and net contributions from State public enterprises. Under Central assistance the main shortfall occurred in the utilisation of external assistance. However, shortfalls in resources mobilisation do not increase the financial burden of the Central Government.

(b) the States resources/Plan Expenditure is reviewed every year in the Annual Plan discussions at various

levels (including at the level of Dy. Chairman and Chief Ministers/Governors). In case of shortfalls in resource mobilisation against the commitments made, the State have been advised from time to time, to take effective steps for mobilising the resources, improve the working of State level public enterprises and effect economy in non-plan revenue expenditure, improve collections of small savings, etc. to avoid shortfalls in plan expenditure.

Bay Exploration Project

3909. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil India is planning to wind up Bay Exploration Project (BEP) located in Orissa and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the total amount invested by Oil India Ltd. on this project; and

(c) whether the Government propose to reconsider the issue in view of short-term permission given by the defence authorities for drilling in the area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. OIL was granted Petroleum Exploration Licence in 1978, 1981 and 1983 for Mahanadi Offshore, Orissa (Mahanadi) Onshore and North-East Coast Offshore areas respectively.

A total of 15 exploratory wells, i.e. 4 in Mahanadi Onshore, 7 in Mahanadi Offshore and 4 in North-East Coast Offshore have been drilled without any success. The areas in Mahanadi Offshore and Mahanadi Onshore were surrendered by OIL in 1986 and 1988 respectively. However, an area of 6100 Sq. K.M. was kept in the North-East Coast Offshore and OIL planned to drill one 5,000 m. deep exploratory well in this area during 1996. As per OIL, the drilling of this well could not be achieved due to following reasons :-

- (i) The apparent inefficiency observed on the part of the drilling contractor to take up drilling operations of this complicated well. Also there was delay in mobilisation of the drillship as per the contractual obligation.
- (ii) The area was falling within the restricted area of Ministry of Defence and approval for drilling operation was available only upto 31.12.1996.
- (iii) There was no other drilling location available in the North East Coast Offshore area.

(b) Oil India Ltd. has so far incurred an expenditure of approximately Rs. 260 crores in its exploration activities in the Bay Exploration Project.

(c) The stated timeframe was not sufficient to complete drilling of the well.