

1	2	3	4	5
Sugar	2.1	8.2	13.0	0.5
Bread	10.4	29.1	14.2	0.6
Milk	0.6	1.3	12.0	2.9
Vanaspati	-0.3	-3.0	-0.9	0.3
Mustard Oil	6.8	-7.9	-1.7	12.8
Groundnut Oil	17.7	-3.0	2.7	5.7
Black-pepper	10.4	18.3	119.3	-4.9
Chillies (dry)	51.9	-16.9	-9.8	16.4
Turmeric	15.2	88.0	40.8	11.3

#### Privatisation of Oil Fields

\*97. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of oil fields in the country privatised so far and the policy of the Government with regard to operation of oil fields;

(b) whether there is any proposal to privatise some more oil fields;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the oil fields selected for the purpose;

(d) whether private sector companies have shown interest in exploration of oil from these fields;

(e) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the Government with these companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) Production sharing contracts have been signed with private companies for development of 13 small sized discovered fields and with Joint Venture consortiums for development of 5 medium sized discovered fields so far. The policy on private participation in discovered fields is under review.

(b) to (d) Based on bids received from Private Companies/consortiums, 12 more fields have been approved for award subject to finalisation of Production Sharing Contracts. Details are given below :-

Fields	Name of Company/Consortium
<b>Small sized fields</b>	
1. Karjisan	Selan Exploration Technology Ltd. India.
2. Modhera	Interlink Petroleum Ltd. India.
3. North Balol	Gujarat State Petrochemical Corporation (GSPC) India, Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOEC) India.
4. Kanawara	-do-
5. Allora	-do-
6. Unawa	-do-
7. North Kathana	-do-
8. Dholasan	-do-
9. Sangapur	Hydrocarbon Resources Development Company (P) Ltd. India.
10. Ognaj	Selan Exploration Technology Ltd. India.
11. Amguri	The Assam Co. Ltd. India. Joshi Technologies Inc. USA.
<b>Medium Sized Field</b>	
12. Ratna & R-Series Oil	Essar Oil Ltd. India. Premier Oil Pacific U.K.

(e) to (f) The Contracts for these 12 fields have not been finalised.

[Translation]

#### L.P.G. Agencies in Rural Areas

\*98. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA :  
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for allotment of L.P.G. agencies in all villages having population of ten thousand to meet the demand of rural areas;

(b) if so, the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether it has been decided to launch programme to bring awareness regarding the use of innovative methods and efficient equipment for conservation of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of public to the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. With a view to extend LPG Marketing in rural areas, while formulating the LPG Plan 1996-98. It was decided to set up new LPG distributorships in the following areas also :

- (i) Wherever feasible, all towns with a population of 5,000 and above, including villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.
- (ii) Wherever feasible, all villages with a population of 10,000 and above, including the villages within 15 Kms. radius, to make a viable distributorship.

Accordingly, a total of 1702 distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plan for 1996-98. Of these, 401 are for rural areas only.

Applications for above distributorships are being advertised currently and selections are to be made by the Dealer Selection Boards on the basis of interview of eligible candidates, who will be responsible to set up distributorships, within specified period.

(c) and (d) Oil Industry is conducting several programmes including oil conservation week every year to create awareness among the masses about oil conservation. Under this programme the following activities are conducted to bring awareness in the use of innovative methods and efficient equipments for conservation of petroleum products.

1. Seminars in Schools/Colleges
2. Seminars with consumer Associations
3. Painting/Debate/Essay Competitions in School/Colleges
4. Wide Spread Messages Through TV/Radio
5. Display of Banners/Hoardings
6. Distributions of Safety/Conservation Literature/Leaflets, Etc.
7. Participation in Kisan Melas and setting up Demonstration Centres in Rural Areas.

Customers/public have appreciated the efforts of the industry in organising various conservation activities in order to promote/propagate awareness and need for conservation of petroleum products.

### Price/Import of Edible Oils

\*99. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there has been considerable rise in the prices of edible oils in the country during the last three years, till date;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor and percentage of hike in various edible oils, separately during the said period;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check the prices and blackmarketing of edible oils;
- (d) whether the Government had imported edible oils during the said period to normalise their supply; and
- (e) if so, the impact or import on the prices of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SARDAR SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : (a) to (c) and (e) The prices of edible oils in 1996 and 1997 have been markedly depressed as compared to those in 1995. However, recently, in April and May, 1998, these prices have risen sharply. The ruling prices in the period January-May for the years 1995, 1996, 1997 and 1998 are given in the enclosed statements - I, II and III.

The recent hike in prices is on account of the following significant factors :-

- (i) A moderate drop in domestic oilseed production in current oil year.
- (ii) Marked hardening of international oil prices, mainly on account of financial instability and civil unrest in Indonesia, a major supplier or international edible oil.
- (iii) Hardening of the Dollar value against the rupee.

Under the EXIM Policy, import of edible oils has been on OGL since April, 1994. The import duty on edible oils has been progressively reduced from 65% in 1994 to the current level of 25%. availing of this 'Import Window', required quantities of edible oils have been imported from time to time to supplement domestic availability.

- (d) Yes Sir.