

(a) whether the Government have received any request for opening of additional examination centres for All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examinations in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Last year, the CBSE had received a request for creation of additional centres at Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala to avoid hardship to candidates from Northern Kerala who have to travel long distance for appearing for the ALL India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance Examination.

(c) All India Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Entrance examination is being conducted by the Central Board of Secondary Education as per the directives of the Supreme Court of India. This Examination is conducted in all the State Capitals only, except in the case of Maharashtra where the examination is conducted at Nagpur, in addition to Mumbai. Addition of new Centres at places namely Kochi and Kozhikode in Kerala was considered by the Central Board of Secondary Examination. Since the Centres are fixed in capital cities only, the request could not be acceded to by the CBSE.

Oil and Gas Exploration

970. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI K.S. RAO :

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

(a) the names of private investors participating in the exploration of oil and gas in the country;

(b) the blocks/areas both onshore and offshore where these private sector companies are exploring oil and natural gas;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow these private investors to sell the gas in the open market tapped from any find in the block to be allocated them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Production sharing contracts have been signed for exploration of Oil

& Gas in nine exploration blocks so far as per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) In seven out of nine exploration blocks private investors have the right to sell natural gas in open market in India. In remaining two blocks private investors did not evince any interest in acquiring such rights.

Statement

Exploration Bidding

Details of Contracts signed

Sl. No.	Block Name & Area (Sq.K.m.)	Consortium with whom contract signed
1.	KG-OS-90/1 4964 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Hardy Oil & Gas; UK ii) Hindustan Oil Exploration Co., India iii) Niko Resources; Canada. vi) Nagarjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd., India
2.	GN-ON-90/3 29200 Sq. Km. (On Shore)	i) HOEC, India ii) Mafattal Industries, India
3.	CY-OS-90/ 181 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC, India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India iv) ONGC
4.	RJ-ON-90/1 11108 Sq. Km (Onshore)	i) Shell India Production Development B.V., Netherlands
5.	BB-OS/5 9095 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India
6.	CY-OS/2 5010 Sq. Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India
7.	RJ-ON-90/4 16600 Sq. Km. (Onshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India ii) Polish Oil & Gas Co., Poland
8.	RJ-ON-90/5 16,030 Sq. Km (Onshore)	i) Essar Oil Ltd., India ii) Polish Oil & Gas Co., Poland
9.	CB-OS/1 3290 Sq.Km. (Offshore)	i) Vaalco Energy Inc., USA ii) HOEC India iii) Tata Petrodyne Ltd., India iv) ONGC