

pounds of pressure. Has the Ministry taken cognizance of this fact and consulted the NSRA to again delineate the zone of formation with the collaboration of the Soviet experts by which we are now producing Bombay High oil, and at the same time, will the Minister collaborate with NSRA, ONGC and Soviet experts in the matter to know this know-how, and through this know-how the country will know whether both on-shore and off-shore Bay of Bengal will be exploited ?

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** The question put by the Hon. Member is not covered by this Question. However, to the best of my information, it is true that M/s. Carlsburg Ltd., did do some survey and on the basis of that survey report the ONGC is likely to drill some wells.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Banwari Lal Bairwa.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** How has this question become a starred question ? It should have been an unstarred question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** When there is no other priority, we have to do something.

#### Petrol Pumps/Diesel Pumps on National Highways

\*105. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on the national highways which are passing through Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on these national highways in Seventh Five Year Plan, particularly in Tonk district of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the criteria of setting up new petrol pumps/diesel pumps and criteria of their allotment ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :** (a) Presently 155 retail outlets are in operation on National Highways passing through Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Oil Industry develops retail outlets for petrol and diesel based on the demand potential in the area and economic viability, taking into account data relating to volumes and distances.

The criteria of allotment of dealerships are the eligibility and suitability of the candidates which are assessed through the procedure of advertisement and of selection by the Oil Selection Boards.

[Translation]

**SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Hon. Speaker, Sir through you, I want to know how many of these 155 retail outlets have been allotted to Harijans and Adivasis. Secondly, the main occupation in Rajasthan is Agriculture. The length of roads in the state being comparatively more, these 155 retail outlets appear to be less. As per the existing rules, a dealership is given there at a distance of every 12 kilometres. In view of the length of the roads and the difficult terrain there, is there any proposal to reduce this distance of 12 kilometres ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shri Jaipal Reddy has rightly said that it should have been an unstarred question.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Sir, so far as the number of retail outlets given to Harijans and Adivasis out of these 155 retail outlets is concerned, I do not have this figure with me at the moment. However, I shall send it to the Hon. Member. The reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is 25 per cent and, I think, this reservation must have been followed strictly. So far as the question of long roads in Rajasthan is concerned, the criterion has been changed in principle from 15 kilometres to 12 kilometres, but this criterion cannot be taken as a hard and fast rule and followed strictly. It is economically viable and there is demand in the area, allotment of dealership of petrol or diesel pumps cannot be denied on the basis of this criterion of distance. But, it depends on demand and economic viability and it is on this ground that 29 such retail outlets are proposed to be opened on national highways in Rajasthan.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Sir, it was announced in the last Lok Sabha that

one fourth of the diesel and petrol pumps would be allotted to Adivasis. Besides, it was also said...

MR. SPEAKER : The position as existed in the last Lok Sabha continues to be there even now.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Besides, Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was also made clear that since Harijans and Adivasis are poor, they find it difficult to accept the dealership of these diesel and petrol pumps and it is because of this that the then Petroleum Minister had made a provision that they would be given cent per cent loan for this purpose. Therefore, I want to know from the Hon. Minister the number of petrol and diesel pumps proposed to be allotted to Adivasis and Harijans under that scheme on cent per cent loan basis, as also the number of such pumps given so far ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The scheme is for giving 25 per cent, but there was a general complaint that Harijans and Adivasis did not have sufficient money and hence *benami* transactions took place. With a view to removing this complaint, it was decided that at least 75 per cent, if not cent per cent, loan would be arranged for them from the banks and I hope the banks provide them the required assistance wherever such applications are received in the banks.

[English]

#### Questionnaire on Poll Reforms

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\*106. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :  
SHRIMATI GEETA  
MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sent a questionnaire on poll reforms to the leaders of the political parties in the country; and

(b) if so, the names of such political parties and their reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A. K. SEN) : (a) and (b). Government has not sent any questionnaire to political parties. It may, however, be mentioned that the Election Commission has by its letter dated the 18th June, 1985 sought

the view of all recognised National parties and recognised State parties on the recommendations made by the Commission in its Second Annual Report presented to Parliament in May, 1985, particularly on the recommendations as to elimination of non-serious candidates, bar on contesting elections from more than two constituencies, disqualification of persons with criminal record, punitive measures to check disturbances at election meetings, fraudulent filing of nomination papers and booth-capturing.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : I asked the question and the Hon. Minister has simply reproduced the recommendations of the Election Commission. Any way, he has replied to my question (a) but he has not replied to question (b). If he replies to that, then I will put my supplementary.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I said all recognised national parties and recognised State parties. If the Hon. Member wants a list of that, well that will be given.. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : What is the reaction of those parties ?

SHRI A.K. SEN : They have not communicated the reaction to the Election Commission yet. I think, the Hon. Member's party has yet to do that... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a question.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : We know that some political parties have already made their comments on the report.

SHRI A. K. SEN : If they have, Election Commission has not yet sent them to us.

MR. SPEAKER : That is understood. It is the Election Commission which has to send the query and the answer will go to the Election Commission. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It is a fact that barring a few constituencies in a few States, in all other constituencies whether it may be Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha, in the elections money power, muscle power and booth capturing play a vital role... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : They are very allergic to it, but they must know it.