

(coterminus with one or more revenue districts).

Fresh bids from Foreign Companies for Exploration of Oil

***28. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
SHRI AMAL DATTA :**

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

(a) whether Government are considering to invite fresh bids from foreign oil companies for exploration and production of oil; and

(b) which are the foreign companies so invited and on what terms and conditions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the foreign companies would be available on after bids are invited and responses received.

The terms and conditions are yet to be finalised.

Oil Exploration in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

***29. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :**

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

(a) whether experiment of oil exploration in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh is going on at present;

(b) whether deposits of oil and gas have been found at any place in these States; and

(c) the amount spent on each project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Gas has been found at Ghotaru and Manhara Tibba in Rajasthan.

(c) Till 31st March, 1985 the amount spent on exploration in Rajasthan is about Rs. 56 crores. Details of exploratory expenditure in Madhya Pradesh are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Mail distribution work by private agencies

***30. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :
SHRI K. KUNJAMBU :**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to involve private agencies in the mail distribution work; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(a) Does not arise.

Functioning of Clandestine Refineries at Indore

***31. SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Blitz of 5th October, 1985 wherein it has been stated that some racketeers succeeded in running three clandestine refineries at Indore to refine mobil oil and marketing the spurious products in sealed tins under the brand names of Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum;

(b) if so, whether similar spurious products in sealed tins have also been sold in other parts of the country; and

(c) the action Government have taken in regard thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c), A statement is given below :