

(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 :

Statement

(b) Sporadic reports about sale of spurious products in sealed containers in other parts of the country have been received.

(c) Normally, to ensure that any spurious oils do not get sold through the retail outlets and kerosene/LDO agents of the oil companies, regular checks of these outlets/agents are carried out by companies individually and jointly. Necessary action is also taken against agents and dealers indulging in such malpractices under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations also undertake surprise checks and take action against the defaulters under the relevant laws.

In the instant case, the Additional Collector, Indore conducted raids and arrested nine persons against whom action in accordance with law has been initiated.

Workers' participation in industry

*32. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director General of Industrial Contingency prepared recently a special report which covers workers' participation in industries; and

(b) whether the above report has been circulated among the LCO public and selected private industrial units in the country for eliciting their views and comments; if so, the results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY
(SHRI NARAYAN DUTT TIWARI) :

(a) The Directorate General, Industrial Contingency prepared a special report which covers workers' participation in the growth of healthy working environment in industries.

(b) The report was circulated among 220 public and 260 selected private sector establishments. A number of public and private sector units are enquiring about and requesting for additional information on the various schemes elucidated in the report with a view to implementing these schemes.

Telecommunications Infrastructure in Rural and backward areas

*33. SHRI CHINTAMANI
PANIGRAHI :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to invest Rs. 885 crores in Rural Tele-communications during the next five years;

(b) whether it is also proposed to provide an efficient telecommunications infrastructure in rural and backward areas which would serve as a prime means for achieving a wide range of socio-economic goals; and

(c) if so, the State-wise allocation of the funds and the priority allotted to such areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir. This outlay was envisaged in the minimum programme of Rs. 11,282 crores prepared by the Department of Telecommunications. The outlay for Telecommunications services has been fixed at Rs. 4,010 crores and accordingly this outlay on rural sector has had to be reduced to Rs. 220 crores.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. It is proposed to introduce integrated digital networks in 15 secondary areas (coterminus with one or more revenue districts) and Rs. 100 crores have been allocated for the purpose. The State-wise plans are being worked out in consultation with the State units.

[Translation]

Installation of Mini-Power Plants in Private Sector

*34. SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the increasing demand for power, Government propose to consider granting permission for installation of mini-power plants in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the names of the States where it is proposed grant permission ?