

(b) whether it is a fact that according to the policy of Government number of diesel/petrol outlets is very low in the Districts of Pilibhit, Bareilly and Shahjahanpur in Uttar Pradesh ;

(c) if so, the action Government propose to take in the matter ; and

(d) the number of outlets of diesel/petrol located in Uttar Pradesh where norms laid down by Government have not been adhered to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The oil industry develops retail outlets for petrol and diesel based on the demand potential and economic viability in the area and taking into account data relating to volume and distance.;

(b) and (c) The existing number of retail outlets in Pilibhit and Bareilly districts of Uttar Pradesh is adequate. Three more retail outlets under the 1985-86 Marketing Plan are proposed to be opened in Shahjahanpur district for meeting the requirements.

(d) Government are not aware of any retail outlet in U.P. in respect of which the prescribed norms have not been observed.

Off-Shore Exploration of Oil in Bay of Bengal

*405. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the off-shore exploration of oil in Bay of Bengal in Eastern Coast has yielded any result ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the agency which had undertaken the operation of exploring oil in that area ;

(d) whether Government have examined the question of advisability of having a number of agencies undertaking exploration operation ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ;

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

(b) Oil/gas was discovered in 3 wells in Cauvery, 6 wells in Krishna-Godavari and 1 well in Andamans Offshore.

(c) to (e) Besides ONGC and OIL, foreign companies like Carlsberg — Natomas and Asamera had explored in the past in the Bay of Bengal. The question of offering offshore blocks for exploration by foreign oil companies is under consideration.

Expansion of Digboi Oil Refinery

*406. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has approved the feasibility report for modernisation and expansion of the Digboi Oil Refinery from the existing capacity of 0.5 million tonne per annum to one million tonne ;

(b) if so, whether this will involve an investment of Rs. 309 crore and

(c) the details of the proposed Digboi modernisation plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Indian Oil Corporation had initially prepared a feasibility report for modernisation of Digboi refinery at a cost of Rs. 309 crores. The proposal included expansion of the capacity by 0.5 MTPA and installation of a Hydro-cracker and replacement of the delayed coker. But taking into consideration the crude availability and other alternatives, a Working Group of this Ministry has recommended a revised modernisation programme at Digboi including replacement of delayed Coker and installation of power generation facilities etc. IOC has been asked to send a revised feasibility report on these lines.