

ments of the society.

Interest Rates of R.B.I.

*449. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loans and deposits in a number of banks have started shrinking seriously due to the new interest rates of the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, whether some of the borrowers have decided to go out of the banks;

(c) if so, whether the coupon rates on new loans have also come down; and

(d) the extent to which the deposits have decreased and whether Government are considering to revise their decision, if not, the main reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there has not been any shrinkage in deposits and advances of banks as a result of new interest rates made effective from April, 1987. The aggregate deposits of all Scheduled Commercial Banks have gone up Rs. 4775 crores during the first four months of 1987-88.

The Reserve Bank of India has further reported that there has not been any change in the coupon rates for the loan maturities floated under the borrowing programme so far in the current financial year.

Gas Leaks

*450. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of ENVIRON-

MENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of gas leakage that have come to the notice of Government during the last three months and where;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to prevent such recurrence in future; and

(d) the various problems posing imminent threat to environment which have surfaced recently?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) A total of 11 incidents of gas leakages have come to the notice of the Government during the last three months. These occurred at Thane, Pune and Chembur in Maharashtra, Puri District in Orissa, Baroda in Gujarat, Bhatinda and Dera Bassi (District Patiala) in Punjab and at Raisen District, Bhopal, Indore and Rewa in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The reasons are given below:

- Improper maintenance of gas handling system;
- Accidental leakage of gas;
- Release of gases due to inadequate supply of water to condenser plants; and
- Wearing out of plant conveyor systems such as pipelines and tubes.

(c) The steps taken include the following:

- (i) Manufacturing processes are stopped till thorough inspection