

Price of Raw Jute

*222. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI DINEN BHATTA-
CHARYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed the minimum support price of the raw jute for the ensuing jute season;

(b) if so, the prices fixed;

(c) the basis of fixing at such level; and

(d) the prices suggested by different jute growing States before the APC?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): (a) to (c). The Government have not yet fixed the minimum support price of raw jute for the ensuing jute season.

(d) For the standard W-5 variety of raw jute the prices suggested by various growing States to the A.P.C. fall in the range of Rs. 200 to Rs. 280 per quintal.

Intensification of Exploration for Oil

*223. SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission is planning intensification of exploration operations for oil and gas on a large scale;

(b) if so, how much is in off-shore areas and how much is in on-shore;

(c) what is the possibility and assessment of oil finding on the continental shelf along India's long shore line; and

(d) whether O.N.G.C. has drawn up a long term scheme to make India self-sufficient in oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b). Plans for intensification of exploration operations have been drawn up by ONGC from time to time and are under implementation. During the Sixth 5-Year Plan for the period 1980-85, the following quantum of work has been proposed:

	Offshore	Onshore
Seismic Surveys (Line Kms)	2,75,000	44,600
Exploratory Drilling (Metres)	2,75,000	7,51,000
Exploratory Wells (Nos)	95	261
Development Drilling (Metres)	3,32,200	5,80,300
Development Wells (Nos.)	158	305

(c) According to an assessment made in 1976, the possibility of finding oil on the continental shelf of India is estimated at about 1000 million tonnes of recoverable reserves.

(d) ONGC operates on a strategy of discovering the maximum possible

oil in the shortest possible time, and its plans are drawn to achieve this objective. The question of attaining self-sufficiency as a result of the efforts of the ONGC depends on actual discovery of adequate reserves of oil.