

**Oil search by Foreign Firms****\*31. SHRI R. Y. GHORPADE:****SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised proposals for crash oil exploration drive;

(b) if so, offers received from foreign firms;

(c) off-shore and on-shore areas demarcated for search of oil; and

(d) when Government are expected to finalise the matter and when the work is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In addition to maximum efforts being put in by ONGC and OIL to speed up the work of oil exploration in the country, Government has decided to invite interested foreign parties also to participate in the exploration and development of hydrocarbons in selected blocks—both onshore and offshore. Pre-qualifying bids were invited for this purpose in August, 1980 in which interested parties were asked to show their interest and to furnish details of their technical and financial capabilities. Against this pre-qualifying bid 67 parties have furnished their particulars out of which 34 parties have tentatively been short-listed for inviting detailed bids.

(c) 28 blocks—both onshore and offshore—have been identified which will be offered.

(d) The matter will be finalised as soon as possible and the short-listed parties will be invited to make bids for specific blocks. It is expected that the actual work under this arrangement may commence by the field season of 1981-82.

**Supply of Petroleum Crude from other Countries****\*32. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:****SHRI CHHITTUBHAI GAMIT:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India has requested the other countries for larger quantity of petroleum crude;

(b) if so, the names of those countries and how much petroleum crude will be imported; and

(c) how much amount will be paid and in how many years to each country giving details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) to (c). Apart from our traditional suppliers, we have approached a number of other countries for supply crude oil. Whereas some have made firm commitments response from others is awaited.

**Restriction in consumption of Petrol****\*33. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE SHARMA:****SHRI K PRADHANI:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made or being made to save petrol by restricting its consumption; and

(b) the results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) The following are some of the important steps taken by the Government to save petrol by restricting its consumption:

(i) The price of petrol had been raised to act as a disincentive for