

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 GAMT:

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

indiscriminate use of petrol vehicles.

(ii) Central Ministries/Departments/State Governments and public sector undertakings had been advised to effect savings in the consumption of petrol in their staff cars.

(iii) Steps have been taken for assessing the feasibility of using the mixture of petrol and alcohol as fuel for motor vehicles

(b) Fiscal measures have been found to be the most effective instrument in controlling consumption of petrol. As a result of continuous increase in price of this product since the oil crisis in 1973-74, the total consumption of petrol in 1979-80 was only 1.48 million tonnes as against the total consumption of 1.52 million tonnes in 1973-74..

Elections to Lok Sabha and Assembly Constituencies in West Bengal and U.P.

*34. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bye-elections to Assembly and Lok Sabha Constituencies in West Bengal and U.P. have been postponed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the State Governments were consulted in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Under section 149 and section 150 of the Representation of the people Act, 1951 when the seat of a member elected to the House of the People/Legislative Assembly of a State, becomes vacant or is declared vacant or his election to the House of the People/Legislative Assembly is declared void,

the Election Commission shall, subject to the provisions of sub-section (2) thereof by a notification in the Gazette of India, call upon the Parliamentary constituency/the Assembly constituency concerned to elect a person for the purpose of filling the vacancy so caused before such date as may be specified in the notification. The Election Commission has not so far issued the notifications for holding bye-elections in West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cases pending in Supreme Court and High Courts

*35. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR
YADAV:

SHRI NGANGOM
MOHENDRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of cases are pending in the Supreme Court and High Courts for years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases pending in Supreme Court/High Courts for (i) 3 years or more (ii) 5 years or more (iii) 10 years or more;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to evolve a plan to dispose of the cases pending for more than three years within a specific period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Relevant information, as furnished by the Supreme Court and High Courts, is given in the attached statement.

(c) and (d) As of now the Government are not considering any proposal to differentiate between arrear cases which are less than three years