

cars made to them. I think there is mismanagement in Maruti Udyog Limited. That is why the delivery is not being done properly. May I know from the Hon. Minister whether such deluxe cars or ordinary cars would be delivered to the aspirants who have already deposited their money with the Maruti Udyog Limited ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Recently, there has been some difficulty in the production and delivery of cars. But so far as the programme of producing deluxe cars is concerned, I must compliment the Company because they have already exceeded the target. In the year 1984-85, the target was 4,000 deluxe cars out of 20,000 vehicles. Against a target of 4,000, they have produced about 5,400 cars. In 1985-86, that is the current year, the target is 6,000 and they expect that the production may go upto 9,000. Recently, there has been difficulty because they are not getting air-conditioners. There is only one supplier who is manufacturing these air-conditioners, and for manufacturing car air-conditioners, he has to import parts like compressors and other components from other countries. The parts are coming and they are lying at Bombay, but because of some transport bottlenecks, they are not coming upto Faridabad, where they have got their unit. Therefore, there has been some delay in getting these air-conditioners. We are sorting it out and we will see that so far as the Deluxe Cars are concerned, against all those bookings, delivery is made as early as possible.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I do not follow the logic of the Hon. Minister in off-loading the shares for the Maruti. He says that these shares are supposed to be transferred not to the individuals but to the financial institutions, just to see that this is not a Government company. But I would like to point out that even if the shares are transferred to the public financial institutions, it will remain a Government company. In view of this, and in view of the fact that Maruti Company is making profits and that Cars are selling at a profit—and with a high premium—would the Minister consider outright rejecting this proposal ?

MR. SPEAKER : This is under consideration. They have done nothing.

Vibration Tests Conducted by ONGC in and Around Calcutta

*104. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any vibration test has been conducted by the ONGC in and around Calcutta;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof;

(c) the names of those areas where such test has already been conducted and names of those areas where such test is to be conducted;

(d) whether Government have received any report of such test; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The surveys have commenced since 1982-83 and the party has acquired 933 SLK of data till June, 1985.

(c) The surveys have already been conducted in Bandel, Lakshmi-Kantapur, Calcutta and Ghatakpukur. The surveys are likely to be conducted in Chinsura, Pandua and Kalna.

(d) and (e). The results of these surveys are to be evaluated by ONGC only, which they are doing.

SHRI R. P. DAS : The reply of the Minister is very short and brief, and I am not at all satisfied with the reply.

> In view of the fact that Bangladesh has already struck oil in the Gangetic valley a few years back, and that Bangladesh is trying to sell the commodity to India also, and since Calcutta, 24-Parganas, Nadia, Hooghly and other parts of West Bengal are on the same sub-Himalayan structure as that of Bangladesh, there is every possibility that there is oil in this part of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : Everyone wishes that.

SHRI R. P. DAS : I mean hydrocarbon, gas etc. In this context, I would

like to know from the Minister whether ONGC along with some other foreign parties, or separately, has conducted drilling operations in these areas, viz. Calcutta or around Calcutta or other parts of the 24-parganas, Nadia and Hooghly; whether foreign parties participated in the exploratory operations and whether Government have received reports from these foreign parties so far; or whether Government is at all aware of the results of these operations. If so, some salient features of these results that the Government might have received in the matter, may be given.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is true that this area is contiguous to the Bangladesh area. It is also true that we expect the presence of hydro-carbon in this area also. But it has yet to be established. We are doing this. For this purpose, an exploratory well has been drilled, but the commercial viability is yet to be proved.

The Hon. Member has put a question with regard to Calcutta and adjoining areas. He now wants to cover a wide range which includes the whole of the Bengal basin.

SHRI R. P. DAS : I asked about the Gangetic basin.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Since the question has not been put with regard to the Bengal basin, I would not be able to say much. But so far as area in and around Calcutta are concerned, a survey has been done, and a vibration survey test is being done in Calcutta. A well has already been drilled in this area, but it is an exploratory well. So far as collaboration with foreign parties is concerned, we are having collaboration with the Soviet in this area, and we expect the results to come in.

MR. SPEAKER : At least you can agree with him that we also wish oil to them.

SHRI R. P. DAS : The Soviet party had their drilling operation, I think, two years back. In the meantime, government might have received results from the party, but the Hon. Minister has not divulged those results here. Are the government planning any joint venture approach with the world's largest drilling contractor in the exploration of oil in the east coast, and whether any such joint venture has been planned for West

Bengal and for off-shore operation in the Bay of Bengal in the 7th Plan ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Noted, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : There is an oil exploration programme. Sometimes the conflicting views by the experts of the ONGC appear and that create confusion. During the Fifth Lok Sabha, from that part of the bench, the late Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu had raised a question on the exploration of oil in Gadra, etc. The government used to answer regularly nothing is there, nothing is there. Very recently, another group found a well of the gas there. It has been reported. Is it a fact that Soviet experts having conflicting views with the ONGC experts and that they made it abundantly clear to your Department that there is huge storage and deposit of gas not only in Calcutta but also in the adjoining areas, but the ONGC people and their experts are not admitting that fact and delaying the progress of the exploration ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The remarks of the Hon. Member are general in nature. It is not true that the ONGC people do not agree with the views of the Soviet people. (*Interruptions*) In fact, whatever data is available, that data is processed and after due processing, exploratory drilling takes place; and after exploratory drilling takes place, we have to have a developmental drilling, and after developmental drilling, if the presence of the oil is proved then and then only we go in for commercial drilling. In view of this, there is no conflict. The Soviet are aiding and helping us in analysing the data and we are at it.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Many a time this question has been raised on the Floor of this House. Is the Minister aware that during 1970 one Soviet ship had done seismic survey of all the old geological formation of our country, and they have delineated the zone of hydro carbon ? After that, the Carnivell Shelve Co. Ltd. had done production-cum-exploratory drilling in the off-shore area of 4000 sq. metres in the Bay of Bengal, nearly 36 kms from Paradip, and they had given detailed remarks that this type of ships are available in the country now; it is there in their comments; and they are not amenable to sustain more than 300

pounds of pressure. Has the Ministry taken cognizance of this fact and consulted the NSRA to again delineate the zone of formation with the collaboration of the Soviet experts by which we are now producing Bombay High oil, and at the same time, will the Minister collaborate with NSRA, ONGC and Soviet experts in the matter to know this know-how, and through this know-how the country will know whether both on-shore and off-shore Bay of Bengal will be exploited ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : The question put by the Hon. Member is not covered by this Question. However, to the best of my information, it is true that M/s. Carlsburg Ltd., did do some survey and on the basis of that survey report the ONGC is likely to drill some wells.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Banwari Lal Bairwa.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How has this question become a starred question ? It should have been an unstarred question.

MR. SPEAKER : When there is no other priority, we have to do something.

Petrol Pumps/Diesel Pumps on National Highways

*105. **SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on the national highways which are passing through Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps/diesel pumps on these national highways in Seventh Five Year Plan, particularly in Tonk district of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the criteria of setting up new petrol pumps/diesel pumps and criteria of their allotment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Presently 155 retail outlets are in operation on National Highways passing through Rajasthan.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Oil Industry develops retail outlets for petrol and diesel based on the demand potential in the area and economic viability, taking into account data relating to volumes and distances.

The criteria of allotment of dealerships are the eligibility and suitability of the candidates which are assessed through the procedure of advertisement and of selection by the Oil Selection Boards.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Hon. Speaker, Sir through you, I want to know how many of these 155 retail outlets have been allotted to Harijans and Adivasis. Secondly, the main occupation in Rajasthan is Agriculture. The length of roads in the state being comparatively more, these 155 retail outlets appear to be less. As per the existing rules, a dealership is given there at a distance of every 12 kilometres. In view of the length of the roads and the difficult terrain there, is there any proposal to reduce this distance of 12 kilometres ?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaipal Reddy has rightly said that it should have been an unstarred question.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Sir, so far as the number of retail outlets given to Harijans and Adivasis out of these 155 retail outlets is concerned, I do not have this figure with me at the moment. However, I shall send it to the Hon. Member. The reservation for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is 25 per cent and, I think, this reservation must have been followed strictly. So far as the question of long roads in Rajasthan is concerned, the criterion has been changed in principle from 15 kilometres to 12 kilometres, but this criterion cannot be taken as a hard and fast rule and followed strictly. It is economically viable and there is demand in the area, allotment of dealership of petrol or diesel pumps cannot be denied on the basis of this criterion of distance. But, it depends on demand and economic viability and it is on this ground that 29 such retail outlets are proposed to be opened on national highways in Rajasthan.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA : Sir, it was announced in the last Lok Sabha that