

Demarcation of Border with Pakistan in Ladakh

1145. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan made several attempts to capture the High altitude snow mountains in Siachin glacier zone in the Numbra area along the border with Pakistan in Ladakh ; and

(b) if so, the action being taken to demarcate this area and prevent such Pakistani attempts ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There have been some attempts by Pakistani troops to dislodge Indian troops from positions in the Siachen Glacier area of the Ladakh region. All such attempts have been thwarted by our troops.

(b) Three flag meetings have been held at Sector Commanders ; level for cease fire prior to delineation of the area which clearly falls within our territory. But these meetings have remained inconclusive.

Requirement of Men Equipment and Research by ONGC for Fresh Exploration

1146. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted by Oil and Natural Gas Commission for fresh exploration especially selection of sites ;

(b) whether for the total survey and finding the suitable places for exploration, the present strength of Oil and Natural Gas Commission and equipment required are sufficient or they require more men, equipment and research; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The criteria adopted by Oil and Natural Gas Commission for selection of sites for exploration interalia are :-

(a) thickness and age of sedimentary column.

(b) the environments of deposition of various rock units constituting the sedimentary column.

(c) availability of sources rocks and their maturity,

(d) availability of suitable structures, reservoir and cap rocks for entrapment of hydrocarbons.

(e) direct or indirect evidence of oil or gas by way of surface seeps, shows, mud-volcanoes, presence of certain chemical constituents in groundwater etc.

(b) and (c) . The requirement of men, equipment and research technology has been growing with the increase in activities of the ONGC.

The requisite in-puts are estimated and acquired from time to time to meet the growing needs of the ONGC.

Underground Gas Deposits in Calcutta

1147. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has found that Calcutta city and greater Calcutta area are full of underground gas and petroleum deposits; and

(b) if so, Government's planning in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Public Call Offices and Telephone Exchanges in Surat District, Gujarat

1148. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in the Surat District of Gujarat where Public Call Offices and Telephone Exchanges were proposed to set up during the Sixth Five Year Plan;