

	Rs. crores
1987-88	1507.53
1986-87	1484.46
1985-86	1302.21

(b) and (c). The profits of ONGC are ploughed back in its operations. The surplus funds, if any, are invested. Position of investments made by ONGC, year-wise, is given below:—

	Rs. crores		
	1987-88	1986-87	1985-86
1. Public Deposit Account	706.90	641.18	466.97
2. Loans to Public Sector Undertakings	100.00	32.67	65.33
3. Public Sector Bonds & Port Folio	763.50	—	—
4. Hydrocarbons India Ltd.	49.52	28.10	25.10
Total	1619.92	701.95	557.40

**Telephone facilities in Police Stations under Operation Siddharth in Bihar**

524. SHRI RAM SWAROOPRAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide telephone facilities in all the police stations in the areas/villages under Operation Siddharth in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No requisition has been received by the Circle for provision of telecom facilities in Bihar under Operation Siddhartha.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

**Allotment of Dealerships to Unemployed Graduates for Pali District, Rajasthan**

525. SHRI SHANKARLAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL

GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an advertisement for allotment of dealerships to unemployed graduates by Indian Oil Corporation at a place located between 82 and 85 Kms. milestones on Pali-Sojat Road in Pali District of Rajasthan was issued in December, 1986 inviting applications within 30 days of the publication of the advertisement;

(b) whether the interviews were held by the Oil Selection Board (North) at Hotel Hilton, Mount Abu, Rajasthan in August, 1988;

(c) the reasons for taking these interviews after the delay of one year and eight months; and

(d) whether Government propose to formulate a policy to obviate the delay and taking prompt decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Interviews for such dealer-

ships are conducted by the respective Oil Selection Boards. The tenure of the incumbents of these 4 Boards, including OSB (North), having expired in June, 1986, the Boards were inoperative thereafter. The Boards were reconstituted between March and September, 1987. This caused accumulation of work and delay in disposal of cases. OSB (North) has since finalised the selection for the retail outlet dealership between Kms. 82-85 on Pali-Sojat Road in District Pali. The Letter of Intent in favour of the selected candidate has been issued on 7.10.1988.

**Supply of Gas to Gas Based Industries  
In Guna District, M.P.**

526. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to supply gas to the small gas-based industries in Vijaypuri, district Guna where gas is being supplied to the National Fertiliser Limited from the Hazira-Bijapur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the gas based industries which are proposed to be encouraged in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A gas based fertiliser plant has been set up at Bijaipur. GAIL have proposed to set up an LPG Recovery Plant at Bijaipur; propane is also proposed to be extracted for the manufacture of propylene and polypropylene.

**Fire in Mathura Refinery**

527. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any enquiry into the causes of fire that broke out in Mathura Refinery on 30 August, 1988;

(b) if so, the facts that came to light in the enquiry; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that such incidents do not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A Statement is given below.

**STATEMENT**

An Enquiry Committee was constituted by IOC for detailed investigations into the fire incident at Mathura refinery on 30.8.1988. This included senior officers from IOC and a senior officer from the Oil Industry Safety Directorate under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

The Enquiry Committee after investigations concluded that naphtha that had spilled around in the loading area created a vapour cloud which was ignited by contact with a heat source in a gully sucker working in that area, causing a sudden explosion and fire. The flames emerging therefrom spread fast to other loaded naphtha wagons, damaging 45 naphtha wagons.

The fire was brought under control in about 3 1/2 hours by refinery fire tenders, assisted by fire tenders from outside agencies also.

The recommendations made by the Enquiry Committee have been accepted by IOC and also circulated to all Oil Companies through Oil Industry Safety Directorate for implementation to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. They include.