

In its report, the two member Committee, constituted to inquire into the fire incident at the 7th floor in SCOPE Complex occupied by the National Fertilizer Ltd. ruled out possibility of fire by accident or electric short-circuit and surmised at the possibility of deliberate arson by miscreants. The matter is now under investigation by the police. However, action has been initiated by the National Fertilizers Ltd. to beef up their security and fire-fighting system.

(c) The Government have formulated a scheme to improve the "emergency" facilities in the three Central Government hospitals namely, Safdarjung Hospitals, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospitals and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals. The main features of the scheme include (i) setting up of control to operate on round-the-clock basis; (ii) deployment of Surgeons/Physicians/Anaesthetist for providing round-the-clock services in the Emergency block; (iii) improving patient transportation by providing colour coded trolleys, wheel chairs, ambulances etc; and (iv) improving manpower support by hiring private uniformed staff for transporting the patients, maintaining sanitation and security.

[Translation]

#### Action Plan for Combating Anti National Forces

\*586. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated an action plan to combat the anti-national forces active in Southern and Western Coastal areas on the basis of sensitive information received from the intelligence agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Government is aware of the security environment existing along the coastal areas of the Southern and Western states, which have been used by anti-national elements for smuggling in arms, ammunitions and explosive etc. With a view to destabilising this country. A Joint Coastal Patrolling operation is going on along the West Coast with a view to checking smuggling. Salient features of this arrangement are as under :—

(a) Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) patrol by Indian Navy/Coast Guard aircraft and ships from about 30 miles off coast outwards. The Navy and Coast Guard have an

integrated reporting chain covering this outer layer of surveillances;

(b) Intermediate layer patrolled by Indian Navy/Coast Guard between 10 and 50 miles of coast;

(c) Close coastal layer patrolled by a multi agency group coordinated by Navy and using hired fishing trawlers manned by integral civilian crew, naval customs and police personnel;

2. The Navy, Coast Guard and Tamil Nadu Police jointly share the responsibility for coastal security of Tamil Nadu Coast. Navy Patrols the seas and areas close to the shore. The Coast Guard Patrols the shallow waters near Gulf of Manner and Palk Bay. On shore security along the coastline is being conducted by CRPF detachments. The Tamil Nadu police has several police station along the entire coastal stretch and regular patrolling is undertaken.

[English]

#### Oil Production

\*587. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :  
DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent on locating oil and gas reserves during the last three year;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to intensify the exploration of oil and natural gas during Ninth Plan to increase the production of oil from the oil fields;

(c) if so, whether any scheme has been approved and the oil and gas identified for exploration, State-wise;

(d) the expected demand of oil and natural gas and the target set for the production of oil and natural gas for the Ninth Plan period; and

(e) the amount of funds earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) An amount of Rs. 4348.96 crore was spent by ONGC and OIL for locating oil and gas reserves during the last three years. In addition, about Rs. 421 crore have been spent on exploration blocks by Private/J.V. operators during the same period.

(b) and (c) ONGC and OIL have intensified their exploration activities with a view to increasing the production of oil and gas. For this purpose these

companies have recast their 9th Plan targets as under :

	9th plan	
	Original	Recast
<b>ONGC</b>		
Suevey		
—2D(GLK)	30,735	42,178
—3D(GLK)	1,86,639	3,20,598
Drilling (Wells)	692	745
<b>OIL</b>		
Survey		
—2D(SLK/GLK)	14,300	13,852
—3D(Sq.Km.)	650	1,196
Drilling (000Mts.)	311	328.57

The State to be covered are :-

Andhra Pradesh	Nagaland
Arunachal Pradesh	Rajasthan
Assam	Tamil Nadu
Gujarat	Tripura
Himachal Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh
Jammu & Kashmir	West Bengal
Madhya Pradesh	

ONGC has also initiated exploration for non-conventional energy sources like coalbed methane.

Besides above, Govt. of India has already signed contracts with Private/J.V. companies for 13 New Exploration Blocks. These Blocks fall in the State of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Triupra and Westren Offshore and Eastern Offshore areas.

The Govt. of India has announced the New Exploration Licensing Policy for hydrocarbons sector. Under this policy a number of new, attractive incentives are being offered for encouraging both Indian and Foreign investment in the country.

(d) The expected production *vis-a-vis* demand of oil and gas in the terminal year of the 9th Five Year Plan i.e. 2001-02 is as under :-

	Oil (MMTs)	Gas (MMSCMD)
Demand	112.8	163.00
Production	39.78	84.21

(e) The amount of fund earmarked for exploration and exploration of oil & gas by ONGC and OIL during the 9th Five Year Plan are Rs. 21063.43 crore and Rs. 2961.43 crore respectively. In addition, expenditure on Private/J.V. operations has been estimated at about Rs. 3200 crore during the same period. The recast exploration programme involves enhancement in physical inputs like seismic survey and exploratory drilling. The enhanced programme will involve additional outlay over and above the original estimates.

[Translation]

#### Committee for imposing ban on Gutka and Pan Masalas

\*588. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Shri H. Narsingham Committee with a view to imposing ban on the production, sale, storage and use of chewing tobacco, gutkas and pan-masalas;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received the recommendations on the above issues from the said committee and the Central Committee on Food Standard;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations of both the Committees thereof;

(d) if not, the time by which the recommendations from the said committees are likely to be received;

(e) whether the Government propose to find out the ingredients which are to be substituted in place of these items which have proved injurious to health;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government are aware that farmers engaged in the cultivation of these items are agitating due to the proposal for banning these items;

(h) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(i) the steps being taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the farmers and the workers engaged in the production of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (f) The Central Government has not set up the Narsingham Committee. However, as informed by the Government of Karnataka, an Inter-