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[Translation]

International Prices of Crude Oil

*333. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of crude oil in the International market during each of the last six months;

(b) the impact on domestic prices of petroleum products and oil deficit due to increase in the international prices of crude oil;

(c) whether the Government propose to follow policy of market price instead of subsidised price in regard to petroleum products; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) The average prices of marker crude oils in the international market as published by Platt's for the last 6 months are as follows:

(Figures in \$/bbl)

	Brent	Dubai	Oman
June 1998	12.054	11.763	11.932
July 1998	12.044	12.135	12.024
August 1998	11.955	12.249	12.089
September 1998	13.390	13.095	12.669
October 1998	12.641	12.749	12.214
November 1998	10.963	11.748	11.277

(b) There has been no adverse impact on Pool Account during the last six months as prices have for the most part declined during the period.

(c) and (d) The Government had decided to dismantle the Administered Price Mechanism in the petroleum sector in phases. Consequently, oil companies have been allowed to fix the prices based on market consideration effective from 01.04.1998 for all petroleum products other than MS, SKO, LPG, HSD and ATF. Prices of HSD is fixed on import parity basis.

[English]

Foreign Terrorists

*334. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign nationals found involved in terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir during 1997 and the current year;

(b) the number of Pakistani Nationals out of them;

(c) the number of foreign terrorists killed and arrested in the State during the said period; and

(d) the action taken against those arrested terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) While it is not possible to give the exact number and nationalities of foreign nationals involved in terrorist activities in Jammu & Kashmir, 37 foreign mercenaries were arrested and 197 were killed during 1997. 15 foreign mercenaries were arrested and 289 were killed in the current year upto 15th November, 1998.

Food Adulteration

*335. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:

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

(a) whether rise in food adulteration cases has created a great concern to the Government and to the people;

(b) if so, whether there is a need for greater consumer awareness to ensure effective implementation of safety measures;

(c) if so, the step taken to make them aware of it;