

prospects in various geological plays available in the area. Although most of the wells could be drilled down to the objective depths, a few wells had to be abandoned due to severe down-hole problems encountered before reaching the objective depths. No commercial hydrocarbon prospects, however, could be established in any of the wells. Despite various geoscientific studies carried out by a firm of international repute, no hydrocarbons were discovered. OIL has already surrendered its petroleum exploration licence in the State of Orissa and North East Coast in Bay of Bengal. Nine blocks are proposed to be offered in offshore Mahanadi & North East Coast (NEC) area including four blocks in deep water areas under New Exploration Licencing Policy.

[*Translation*]

**Intensive Development in Insurgency
affected States**

3772. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had given directions to State Governments to have co-ordination in matters of intensive development, road construction and providing communication facilities in terrorist and naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the scheme to be formulated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar. Government of Bihar has been advised to speed up their socio-economic programmes.

[*English*]

Memorial of Mahatma Gandhi

3773. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government purpose to establish a memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Washington DC; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said Memorial is going to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) The Embassy of India, Washington is working towards it.

(b) The architecture of the memorial is required to be approved by the concerned statutory bodies in Washington. Work for the completion of the memorial will be undertaken thereafter. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate any definite time frame in this regard at present.

New Delhi Municipal Council

3774. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the New Delhi Municipal Council has not sent any electricity and water bills during 1996-97;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the NDMC has sent Electricity and Water bills in lump sum and also charged 3% surcharge on the arrears;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether NDMC have received a large number of requests to accept the bill with surcharge in installments;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of the NDMC?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There was a gap of about seven months from September, 1996 to March, 1997 when NDMC could not send bills to the consumers because the contract awarded to a private contractor for preparation of electricity and water bills had to be rescinded on account of certain irregularities and it took NDMC some time to set up an in-house computer system for the purpose.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The surcharge of 3% is levied only when the consumer defaults in making full payment against an earlier bill.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The request received from the consumers for payment of charges in instalments is allowed subject to the payment of surcharge at the rate of 3% per cent on the deferred payment.

(g) After the installation of the in-house computer system, some shortcomings were observed in the software which are being progressively rectified.

Bhatinda Oil Refinery

3775. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval to oil Refinery project in Bhatinda;

(b) if so, whether the construction work has been started on this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Demarcation work is in progress in respect of 2,000 acres of land acquired for the project. Order has also been placed for construction of boundary wall.

Smile for All National Oral Health Programme

3776. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched a "Smile for All National Oral Health Programme" to generate awareness about oral health hygiene among school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools covered and number of children so far provided this awareness programme:

(d) whether this programme has been launched all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further strategy chalked out to promote health among school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG through Pipelines

3777. SHRI JANARDAJI PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to supply LPG through pipelines in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide such facility in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of other States to whom such facility is proposed to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Presently, there is no proposal of the Public Sector Oil companies to supply LPG to consumers through cross-country pipelines in the country. However, there is a proposal of M/s. GAIL to lay a pipeline from Kandla/Jamnagar terminating at Loni via Delhi for Bulk Transportation of LPG to meet the LPG requirements of the Bottling Plants, primarily in the Northern Region. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, 2001.

The main reason for not considering supply of LPG through Pipeline to household consumers is high cost involved in laying the pipeline network and safety reasons due to absence of any foolproof system to ensure safety of the pipeline network passing through public places in a city/town.

[English]

Shelter to ISI Agents and Militants

3778. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: