

[12 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

Government to allocate Natural Gas to BSES Andhra Power at the cost of two other power projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Andhra Pradesh have recommended to this Ministry that BSES Andhra Power Project, being the least fixed cost operating project, their fall-back allocation of natural gas may be made firm and the firm allocation of Spectrum Extension Phase-II and a part of firm allocation of Gautami Power Project Ltd. may be made fall-back, since these projects have not made desired progress.

Allocation of gas to companies

2192. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some companies without any infrastructure have been allotted gas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Setting up of infrastructure is not a prerequisite for allocation of natural gas. Generally prospective consumers, before setting up a new units, apply for allocation of natural gas. Setting up of infrastructure is the subsequent stage. However, existing users may utilize the infrastructure already available for any additional allocation of gas.

Availability of natural gas in Tripura

2193. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States in which the presence of natural gas has been discovered;

(b) the number of places in Tripura where exploration of natural gas has been made and in how many cases it was successful;

(c) the quantity of natural gas which is expected to be present under the earth in Tripura;

(d) the quantity of gas to be liftable everyday and how much is being consumed now; and

(e) the number of gas-based projects which are in the process of installation in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The presence of natural gas has been established by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in eight States;

(b) In Tripura, exploration has been carried out in 14 prospects, of which 6 prospects have proved to be gas bearing.

(c) As on 1.4.2002, the estimated ultimate gas reserves in the fields of Tripura are about 28 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM).

(d) The present utilisation/drawal of natural gas by various consumers in Tripura is about 1.2 Million Standard Cubic Meters Per Day (MMSCMD) against 2.0 MMSCMD of gas that could be produced as per the present surface handling capacity of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. in the State.

(e) At present, there are four gas based projects which are using gas in Tripura. Natural gas has also been allocated in favour of four power projects and one fertilizer project.

Impact of International price on domestic LPG price

2194. **SHRI B.J. PANDA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports in the Hindustan Times of 27th May, 2002 that the Indian national companies would bear additional burden on cooking gas as a result of increase in the International prices, if so, what is the additional burden per LPG cylinder;

(b) what is the present subsidy per cylinder Government are bearing and how much the national companies are losing per day with international prices soaring up; and

(c) whether it is proposed to pass this additional burden to the consumer, if so, how much per cylinder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) As per the Government decision on dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), domestic LPG will continue to be subsidised post APM. The subsidy on LPG will be on a specified flat rate basis from 1st April 2002 and the retail price will vary as per the price changes in the international market. The flat rate of subsidy and the financial burden on the oil companies due