

(c) whether the higher combined sales would not cause uneconomical dealers commission and would result into malpractices in trade; and

(d) the action taken against responsible persons found guilty for above discrepancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The dealers' commission approved for retail outlets of MS/HSD is based on an average thruput of 2424 KL per retail outlet per annum, based on a nationwide survey.

(b) No such proposal was considered in the calculations of Dealers' Commission.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Natural Gas produced from Gujarat

941. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

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

(a) the total production of Natural Gas from the State of Gujarat during 1997 to 2000, year-wise;

(b) the Natural Gas allotted to the State of Gujarat out of the total production as in part (a) above, year-wise;

(c) the Natural Gas allotted to other States produced in Gujarat, year-wise from 1997—2000; and

(d) whether the Central Government are considering the demand of Natural Gas for Power Stations and for Industrial Fuel use made by the Gujarat Government?

[28 November, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The production of natural gas from the Gujarat State during 1997 to 2000 is as follows:—

Year	Quantity in Million cubic metres (MMCM)
1997-98	3174.78
1998-99	3279.25
1999-2000	3271.14
TOTAL	9725.17

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Provision of Natural Gas b Ceramic Manufacturing Units in Gujarat

942. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

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

(a) whether a demand to provide Natural Gas as a fuel has been made by Ceramic manufacturing units of Wankaner-Morbi-Than of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereon;

(c) whether it is a fact that by providing Natural Gas to units referred to in part (a) above, production cost can be brought down by 30 percent; and

(d) what is the total quantity of kerosene used for fuel by the Industrial Units of Wankaner-Morbi and Than in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As there is no source of natural gas nor pipeline network in the Morbi region, presently there is no proposal to supply natural gas to these units.

(c) Better firing efficiency could be obtained by using natural gas and improving the furnaces. The exact deduction in production cost would depend on the scale of the plant technology used, efficiency of the unit etc.