

(c) GAIL has a preliminary proposal to lay a pipeline from Vizag to Secunderabad *via* Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh for transportation of LPG.

Policy on operation of Petrol Pumps

911. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed a uniform policy regarding the tenure and selection of operators for Jubilee and COCO pumps;

(b) whether the order for providing ULP Petrol on each petrol pump has resulted into the dual operation of the petrol pumps;

(c) if so, the reasons for depriving the customers/motorists from the facilities nearest to their places;

(d) the loss to the exchequer, in case of existing dual operation of certain pumps; and

(e) whether the stoppage of dual operation would cause unemployment and whether oil corporation would absorb these unemployed workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The Government have issued guidelines for selection of labour contractors in case of Company Owned Company Operated (COCO) retail outlets. Jubilee Retail Outlets are also to be operated by the oil companies on COCO basis. As per the existing norms being followed by the oil industry, the tenure of the job contractor in the Jubilee/COCO retail outlets is initially for a period of one year with one year renewal option.

(b) to (e) The addition of UL Petrol facility amounts to dual operation only in those cases where initially partial resitement of HSD facility was allowed and ULP was added at the resited location. At present Unleaded Motor Spirit is available throughout the country for the benefit of customers. Dual operation is not allowed under the existing policy of the Government. To meet the increasing demand for MS and HSD, more retail outlets are being set up by the oil marketing companies. Setting up of more retail outlets will create more employment opportunities.