

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 reduction in production cost would depend on the scale of the plant technology used, efficiency of the unit etc.

(d) The Government allocates kerosene to States Governments only for the Public Distribution System. The industrial units directly source their requirement of kerosene under the Parallel Marketing Scheme.

### **Measures to check increase in Oil Prices**

†943. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction to the newsitem captioned, "Tel mulyon mein vridhi kum karaane ke liye Ra Ja Ga Ke paanch ghatak dalon kaa samyukta morcha" appearing in Punjab Kesari dated 11th October, 2000; and

(b) what measures have been taken to check the increase in oil prices alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) In consideration of the sharp increase in the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products, Government decided to pass around 1/3rd of the estimated oil pool deficit by the end of current financial year through upward revision in the consumer prices of controlled petroleum products effective 30th September, 2000. Simultaneously, Government reduced duties of customs on crude oil from 15% to 10% and on petrol, diesel etc. from 25% to 20%. Further, duties of excise have been reduced from 16% to 12 on diesel and from 32% to 16% on petrol. The above reduction in duties amounts to Rs.4000 crores. After the revision in the prices effective 30-9-2000, Government had received many representations from various quarters. Government after considering all aspects, have reduced the exstorage point price of kerosene for public distribution system by Re.0.89/liter and of domestic LPG by Rs.8.54/cylinder with effect from 22nd November, 2000 resulting into reduction in retail selling prices by around Re.1/litre and Rs.10/ cylinder, respectively.

### **Operational cost of ONGC and OIL**

944. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The operational cost of ONGC and OIL for production of oil in US dollar per barrel;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.