

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): (a) Data on detection of fake currency in the recent past does not show any definite trend.

(b) There are indications of possibility of Bangladesh being used as one of the transit routes for infiltrating counterfeit currency into India.

(c) and (d) To curb circulation of fake currency notes in the country, the Government has taken a number of steps which *inter-alia* include setting up a special unit in the Central Bureau of Investigation for exclusive investigation of counterfeit currency notes, scaling up of vigilance by the Border Security Force/Custom Authorities, to prevent smuggling of fake currency notes into the country, incorporation of special security features in high denomination notes and dissemination of information on security features through print media and Doordarshan for the benefit of public. A High Level Committee of experts, with representatives from Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, National Security Council Sectt., Reserve Bank of India and the Printing Presses, constituted to examine the whole gamut of problems caused by circulation of fake currency has recently submitted its report wherein it has made several recommendations to tackle the problem.

Accidents on LPG/CNG run vehicles

693. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to minimize fire accidents in motor vehicles run on LPG/CNG;

(b) whether Government are aware of bursting of LPG/CNG Gas cylinders used in buses and cars; and

(c) if so, whether Government are planning to stop the usage of LPG/CNG Gas cylinders in motor vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The training/

awareness programmes for drivers and maintenance staff of CNG buses are being conducted on a regular basis by IGL. Auto LPG can be used only in vehicle having permanently fitted auto LPG tank. This tank is designed to Indian Standard Specification No. IS: 14899 and has all the safety features including safety relief valve, excess flow check valve and fusible plug. There have been no report relating to bursting of fixed auto LPG tank or CNG cylinder conforming to laid down specifications in any approved vehicle in the recent past.

Competition between ONGC and Chinese companies

694. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minsiter of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stiff competition between ONGC Videsh and the Chinese Oil Companies for acquiring oil equity abroad is proving to be a costly affair for the two Asian neighbours;

(b) the oil experts are of the view that if the Chinese Oil Companies, spearheaded by CNPC, join hands with ONGC Videsh they will be able to strike better deals; and

(c) if so, the stand of Government on the above suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Generally, mutually beneficial collaboration between oil companies is always a welcome step. ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL) is pursuing acquisition of 25% stake in the Grater Nile Oil Project in Sudan, where the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) of China is also a consortium partner, which may lead to cooperation between OVL and the Chinese and other international companies in future.

Protection to CNG Stations from rain

†695. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared on 30th June, 2002 in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' under the caption "Barish se kai CNG Station kee mechinain Kharab, Eendhan ka tota";

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.