

2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Allocations for 2007-08 have also been maintained at the same level.

In view of requests received from various State Governments including Maharashtra for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned the detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only.

Further, in order to formulate a long-term pricing policy, the Government had constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister to examine different aspects of pricing and taxation of petroleum products with a view to stabilizing/rationalizing their prices. The Committee submitted its report on 17.2.2006. The Committee has also *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to BPL families only. The Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle' that subsidy on PDS kerosene be limited to BPL families only. The proposal to work out the modalities to implement this decision and for rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene among States/UTs is under the consideration of the Government.

#### **Approval of Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill**

1197. SHRI KESHUBHAIS. PATEL:  
SHRI SURENDRA MOTILAL PATEL:  
SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat submitted the Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill to the Central Government for approval in February, 2005;

(b) whether it is still lying pending with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill, 2005, for seeking the approval of the Government of India before its introduction in the State Legislature, was received by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 17th Feb. 2005. It has been informed by MHA that the State Legislations are examined from three angles viz. (i) repugnancy with Central Laws (ii) deviation from National or Central Policy and (iii) legal and constitutional validity. In the case of the Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Use of Fuel) Regulation Bill, 2005 there are policy issues, which need to be sorted out and no time-frame can be fixed for achieving the same.

#### **Mining of gas hydrates**

1198. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has around 2000 trillion cubic feet of prognostic reserves