

[2nd March, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

two years, a number of new areas/structures were identified in the following basins:—

Cambay basin, Himalyan Foothills, Vindhyan basin, Cauvery basin, Krishna-Godavari basin, Upper Assam basin, Assam-Arakan Fold belt, Ganga Valley basin, Rajasthan basin and East Coast and West Coast basin.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Merger of CRL and MRL with public sector oil companies

851. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to merge Cochin Refineries Ltd. (CRL) and Madras Refineries Ltd. (MRL) with some public sector oil companies is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, whether the proposal would be in the interest of these refineries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The Govt. have yet to take a view on the subject.

Production of Gas from Tapti Fields

852. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of gas from Tapti fields has gone up to 20 MCMD;

(b) if so, to whom the gas has been allocated;

(c) whether it is a fact that the allocation of gas is being made to others, denying the Gujarat of its legitimate demand of 2.25 MCMD for Pipavav Power Project; and

(d) how much gas has been diverted to HBJ pipeline in last four

years, from 1996-97 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The present supply of gas from Tapti fields is in the order of 5.5 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD). It was decided in 1989 to allocate gas from the yet to be developed Mid & South Tapti fields to a power project to be put up at Pipavav and take gas from Gandhar fields to the HBJ pipeline system. However, subsequently, keeping in view the fact that the investment decision to develop Mid & South Tapti fields were yet to be taken, it was agreed to allocate the Gandhar gas for two gas based power projects of 600 MW each in Gandhar area and to take to gas from Mid & South Tapti fields to meet the existing commitments along the HBJ pipeline system.

Production of crude oil in Assam

853. DR. (SHRIMATI) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing production level of crude oil would meet the requirements of the refineries of Assam; and

(b) if not, what is the action plan initiated by Government for enhancement of crude production in the State as also to import crude by connecting additional crude pipelines from outside the State/ expanding the existing capacities of Barauni-Naharkatiya crude pipeline connecting Numaligarh Refinery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The action plan formulated to boost production of hydrocarbons in Assam includes:—

- (i) Effective reservoir management through infill drilling, redistribution of water injection and installation/optimisation of lift mechanism.