

[24 February, 2000] RAJYA SABHA

Agreement between IOC and Balal of Iran

108. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement arrived at between IOC and Balal of Iran for Oil exploration in the oil sector; and

(b) the extent to which country's dependence on the import of oil would be reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No agreement has been arrived at between IOC and Balal oil field in Iran.

Blowing up of ONGC Pipeline by ULFA Rebels

109. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ULFA rebels blew up an ONGC pipeline in Assam's Sibsagar district recently disrupting the supply of crude oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the estimated loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) in how many cases during the last two years ONGC pipeline were blown up cut off by the ULFA rebels disrupting the oil supply stating the loss suffered of a consequence thereof;

(d) whether Government have analysed the security arrangements to identify the loopholes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) On 1-1-2000, a crude oil pipeline of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) was blown up in Sibsagar district of Assam reportedly by United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) resulting in loss of 150 tonnes of crude oil production.

Besides the above incident, there was one more incident of blowing up of 12 inch trunk oil pipeline of ONGC on 8-9-1998 in Sibsagar District reportedly by ULFA. ONGC had not suffered any loss of oil production in this incident since the pipeline was not in use for transportation of crude oil. However, ONGC spent Rupees Fifty one thousands approximately for repairing the damaged section of the pipeline.

(d) and (e) Onshore Security Coordination Committee, headed by Director General of Police, Assam, reviews the security arrangements periodically and takes necessary steps such as beefing up of security, deployment of additional manpower and round the clock patrolling of vital installations by ONGC, CISF and local police.

Petrol and LPG Distributorships to Families of Kargil Victims

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

(a) the number of families in Maharashtra killed in Kargil war which have been allotted petrol and diesel pumps and LPG distributorships, so far, if so, the details of persons district-wise in the State;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to cover all such persons who have lost their lives in the war with Pakistan; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme to allot 500 LPG distributorship/RO dealership to the widows/dependents of the defence personnel killed in action. The allotments are made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Defence. Under the above mentioned scheme allotment of one LPG