

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) As intimated by the Ministry of Labour, they have not issued guidelines in respect of regularisation of services of Contract labour in PSUs. However, the Central Government (in the Ministry of Labour) has issued Notifications from time to time under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, prohibiting employment of contract labour in certain specified works in establishments under its administrative control. Several Writ Petitions filed in different Courts for and against the implementation of these notifications are presently pending in the Courts.

The Supreme Court of India in the Air India Statutory Corporation Limited Vs. United Labour Union and others have held that once a Notification prohibiting employment of contract labour in an activity is issued under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the contract labour engaged in that activity become the direct employees of the concerned establishments. Issues pertaining to engagement and absorption labour arising out of this judgement was taken up by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) on behalf of the PSUs. The same has been admitted and referred to a large Bench of the Supreme Court. Thus, the entire matter of regularisation of contract labour has become sub judice.

The above position notwithstanding. Oil PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have reportedly regularised the services of 2088 contract employees during the last five years in pursuance of the Central Government Notifications, Court directions or otherwise as under—

1995 — 509
 1996 — 407
 1997 — 535
 1998 - 338
 1999 — 299

Internal valuation of GAIL's Equity

1654. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
 SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled "GAIL sell off opens cheap route to key stake for firms" in Business Standard dated 10th November, 1999; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto, specially with regard to the reported internal valuation of the energy companies of GAIL's equity value of Rs. 350 per share;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government is aware of news item titled "GAIL sell off opens cheap route to key stake for firms" Business Standard dated 9th November, 1999.

(b) Government have no access to the internal valuation of energy company, regarding their assessment of a fair value of share of GAIL in a strategic sale. Government have disinvested GAIL's share in the domestic as well as in the GDR market as per the recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission who have recommended disinvestment up to 25% only. No strategic sale of GAIL's shares has been effected. Strategic sale would normally involve transfer of management control.

Pending List of LPG Connections in Metro Cities

†1655. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any ambitious scheme to end the pending list of cooking gas in metro cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

' (c) the number of cooking gas connections likely to be given in the year 1999-2000 under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have issued directions to the Public Sector Oil Companies to clear the waiting list

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.