

Governments. As per the oil industry practice throughout the country, a maximum allocation of 250 KL of Kerosene per month per block dealership is made. New dealerships are created by restructuring the existing dealerships selling more than 250 KL of Kerosene per month. Any additional allocations above 250 KL is distributed to the dealerships whose allocation is less than 75 KL per month.

Petrol pump at Bhikiyasain in Almora district

1039. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no petrol pump at Tehsil headquarter of Bhikiyasain in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has assessed or propose to assess the requirement of Bhikiyasain Tehsil headquarter and its adjoining areas such as Janala, Bhatraujkhan, Basot, Machhour, Sadar, Masi, etc. in order to open petrol pump there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefore and by when the said assessment is likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Retail Outlet dealerships are opened at locations meeting Oil Industry's viability norms. Location Bhikiyasain has not been found feasible for setting up retail outlet dealership.

(b) Government is not aware about any such survey conducted or propose to be conducted by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam.

Does not arise.

Corruption in Petrol Pumps

1040. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Pump par Upri Kamai May Malik Ka Bhi Hissa" appeared in the Navbharat Times dated the 31st January, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken by Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. No such instances have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) and (d) Regular inspections/surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are launched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration.

Refining capacity in the country

1041. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the refining capacity in India as on 31st December, 1998;

(b) which oil refineries in India are using the indigenous crude from the Assam Oil Fields;

(c) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the ban imposed by ULFA on Oil Transport from Assam;

(d) what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) whether Government have decided to increase the quantity of imported crude in 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Petroleum Sector has been delicensed from June, 1998. As a result, now oil companies are free to maintain their installed capacities flexible depending on demand/supply scenario.

(b) The indigenous crude from the Assam Oil Fields is being used by Digboi, Guwahati, Bongaigaon and Barauni Refineries.

(c) and (d) Oil PSUs have been advised to take necessary action to strengthen the security.

(e) The quantity of crude oil imported during the last 3 years were as follows:—

Year	Quantity in MMT
1995-96	27.34
1996-97	33.90
1997-98	34.49
	(Provisional)

As per the Oil Economy Budget (R.E.) for 1998-99, the quantity of crude oil likely to be imported is to the tune of 35.226 MMT.

Private Agencies in Oil Fields

1042. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Economic Times dated 13th February, 1999 under the caption "Private oil fields gushing but Government blocks contracts"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Due to certain observations made by the CAG on the award of discovered fields for private participation, the policy is under review.

Foreign investment in Oil Refineries

1043. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to attract more foreign investment in oil refineries; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. The present guidelines for issue of LOIs for setting up of the refineries are as under:—

(i) In the refinery sector in Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), refineries where JV with PSUs Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been limited to 26% (PSU 26% and balance 48% public equity) and where the JV partner is a private Indian Company, FDI has been limited to 49% of total equity.

(ii) For EOU refineries 100% FDI is permitted.

देश में तेल की खोज

1044. श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) उन महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्रों के नाम क्या हैं जहाँ इस समय तेल की खोज की जा रही है;

(ख) क्या संपूर्ण पेट्रोलियम क्षेत्र को पुनर्गठित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है;

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) क्या प्रत्येक महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र में तेल की खोज संबंधी प्रयासों में तेजी लाये जाने का विचार है;

(ङ) यदि हाँ, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(च) वे नए क्षेत्र कौन-से हैं जहाँ पर तेल खोज संबंधी कार्य के शुरू किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(छ) ऐसे तेल क्षेत्रों से वर्ष वार कितने परिमाण में तेल निकाले जाने की संभावना है?