

Based on the above criteria, Oil Industry has identified 1285 urban/rural and 401 exclusively rural locations in the country for servicing the rural areas under the revised 1996-98 Marketing Plan.

Stopping the Import of HSD

2580. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plan to stop imports of High Speed Diesel (HSD) from August as reported in the Economic Times dated the 16th February, 1999;

(b) what is the projected demand and supply of diesel for 1999-2000; and

(c) whether Government have taken into account various exigencies while arriving at these figures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Import of Petroleum Products including HSD would, inter alia, depend upon the overall demand and supply position in the country and the prevailing market conditions. As per IX Five Year Plan (1997-2000) document, the projected demand of petroleum products including HSD for 1999-2000 is likely to be 93.67 MMT. The projected demand and supply of Diesel for 1999-2000 as per present indications are 39.63 MMT and 39.87 MMT respectively. The productwise projection of demand and supply is made every year in the Oil Economy Budget taking into account the projections made by the Oil Industry, production trend and various other exigencies.

Powers to Revive Dealerships

2581. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have delegated its powers to respective Oil Corporation to revive dealerships/distributorships suspended/pending since 1996 to face the probable competition with private makers in spite of recommendation of oil

industries to revive all such pending cases irrespective of any base year;

(b) what are the reasons for selecting this year as base year and the details thereof;

(c) whether the step would not initiate the probable litigation and would not discriminate among the petitioners;

(d) whether this step would not be beneficial to private oil companies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to empower Oil Companies to face emerging competition from the private sector in the deregulated scenario, Government have issued guidelines delegating powers to the oil companies for revival of dealerships/distributorships subject to certain conditions. One of the conditions is that the RO dealership terminated before 1.1.1996 will not to be considered for revival, SKO / LDO dealerships will not be revived.

(b) It was felt that extending the base year further may invite large number of representations in respect of very old cases.

(c) Government do not foresee such a situation.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Refund of Commission by Oil Corporations

2582. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Corporations are refunding the draft commission on the purchase of products to the retail outlet dealers and the same is not being refunded to LPG dealers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for discrimination and details and guidelines for fixing up the dealer's commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) While fixing the dealers' commission for Motor Spirit and High

Speed Diesel, no demand draft charges are included in the commission. Therefore, the dealers located in outstation/non-depot locations who make payments through Demand Draft are paid Rs. 40/- per Kilo litre and Rs. 16/- per Kilo litre for MS & HSD respectively towards DD charges. The demand draft charges are already taken into consideration while fixing the LPG distributors' commission.

Establishment of Petroleum Training Institutes

2583. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to establish few petroleum training institutes in the country involving oil companies;

(b) if so, objects of opening such institute, location and commission schedule finalised for those including that for Assam;

(c) whether Prime Minister has made a declaration during 1988-89 regarding establishment of an oil Museum at Digboi, Assam on completion of 100 years of India's first oil exploration in 1890;

(d) if so, location and project package finalised and progress made so far towards its establishment; and

(e) if not, reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The object of setting up Training schools is to impart training in specialised skills to meet the requirements of upstream and down-stream industries in oil sector. A Task Force consisting of experts from oil Industry & Educational Consultants India Limited has been constituted to identify the possible locations and other details of the Training Schools.

(c) to (e) Government has decided to set up an oil Museum under the name and style of K.D. Malaviya National Oil Museum at Guwahati at an estimated project cost of Rs. 8 crores.

Capacity and Utilisation of Refineries in Assam

2584. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total installed capacity and present capacity utilisation of various refineries in Assam;

(b) the reasons for lesser utilisation of capacity, which is national loss, and steps initiated to capture this loss;

(c) the proposed target to make up the crude oil shortfall including the status of completion of crude pipeline from Haldia to Barauni connecting Guwahati Barauni Pipeline; and

(d) the action contemplated for evacuation of the refinery products outside the region including NRL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):

(a) The total installed capacity of various refineries in Assam at present is 4.0 MMTPA. As per the latest estimates for the current year (1998-99), the capacity utilisation of various refineries in Assam are given as under:—

Refinery	% Capacity Utilisation
AOD-DIGBOI	84.3%
IOC-GUWAHATI	85.0
BRPL-BONGAIGAON	70.3

(b) and (c) Capacity utilisation of Assam Refineries is lower due to lower availability of Assam Crude. The remedial steps taken/proposed to increase crude availability for Assam Refineries are:—

(i) Augmentation of crude production for North Eastern Region;

(ii) The capacity of Haldia-Barauni crude oil pipeline is being augmented by IOC from 4.2 MMTPA to 7.5 MMTPA and the project is scheduled to be completed by February, 2002.

(iii) A Memorandum of Understanding between Oil India Ltd, and BRPL for transportation of imported crude oil through reverse pumping from Barauni to BRPL was signed on 25.3.98 and between BRPL, and IOC on 3.3.98. The target date for completion of the reverse pumping is end March, 2001.