

(b) if so, whether the closure of the plant has affected at major power and fertilizer plants in the country;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(d) the total loss suffered to the plants by floods and the steps taken to restore the work on the plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC's Gas Processing Complex at Hazira was shut down due to floods for the period from 17th September, 1998 at 9.45 hrs. to 21st September, 1998 at 13.50 hrs.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Closure of the plant has adversely affected the natural gas supplies to the Power and Fertiliser units at Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline system. This was partially off set by the supply of natural gas on priority basis to the power plants along the HBJ system from the gas available in line pack.

(d) As per the preliminary estimates, loss suffered by ONGC is likely to be to the tune of Rs. 84.06 crores on account of damage to the equipments/systems and loss of chemicals etc.

Following steps were taken to restore the work on the plant:

- (a) Contingency plants were drawn;
- (b) Restoration work was taken up on a war footing.
- (c) Several breaches on the railway siding were got repaired.
- (d) Partial supply of gas was started by 21st September, 1998 itself.
- (e) Alternate fuel arrangements were made on the request of the consumers.

New Exploration Licensing Policy in Hydrocarbon Sector

2743. **SHRI PRFULL GORADIA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced new exploration licensing policy as a part of the liberalisation process in the Hydrocarbon sector;

(b) if so, the salient features including terms and conditions thereof;

(c) whether the present Oil Field (Developments & Regulation) Act have provisions for multiplicity in the rates royalty for crude oil and natural gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) New Exploration Licensing Policy was approved by the Government of India in February, 1997. The main features, terms and conditions of the policy are:

—Level playing field to National Oil Companies vis-a-vis private oil companies.

—No blocks reserved for NOCs.

—No compulsory participating or carried interest by national oil companies.

—International price of oil for discoveries made.

—No payments of signature, discovery of production bonus.

—No custom, duty.

—Freedom of sell crude oil and natural gas in domestic market related prices.

—No cess on crude oil production.

—Royalty payment on advalorem basis.

*12.5% for onland crude oil.

*10% for offshore and crude oil.

*10% on natural gas both offshore and onshore.

—Half the rate of royalty on production from deep of shore blocks for first seven years after commencement of commercial production.

—Petroleum Tax Code to be place.

—Provision for Hydrocarbon Development Fund.

Besides Government has given infrastructure status to E&P sector which allows 7 years Tax Holiday.

(c) to (e) The oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 has recently been amended to empower the Government to notify different rates of royalty in respect of same mineral oil, mined, quarried, excavated or collected from the areas covered by different classes of mining leases.

Merger and Rationalisation of Public Sector Oil Companies

2744. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it would make enormous economic sense to merge and rationalise the public sector oil companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public sector undertaking oil companies operate at low profit levels;

(c) whether any study has been made of a potential scenario involving the merger of one or more oil companies in the public sector;

(d) if so, the agency which did the study; and

(e) if no study has been made, whether Government will order such a study on the likely scenario which will emerge from merger amongst public sector undertaking oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) It would be advantageous to merge or co-relate like oil companies with like or interrelated in order to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

(b) Oil companies are operating at reasonable profit levels;

(c) to (e) Government have constituted a committee to recommend upon strategic partnerships/alliances/relationships between IBP (a public sector petroleum marketing company) and other petroleum Public Sector Undertakings for total optimality in functioning.

रायल शैल द्वारा संयुक्त उद्यम से पीछे हटना

2745. श्री लक्ष्मीराम अग्रवाल: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रमुख तेल कम्पनी रायल शैल ने सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रम भारत पेट्रोलियम के साथ 10,000 करोड़ रुपये की लागत वाली प्रस्तावित संयुक्त तेल शोधन परियोजना से हाथ खींच लिया है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौर क्या है;

(ख) क्या उपरोक्त परियोजना को अब पूरा किया जाएगा और उन कम्पनियों के नाम क्या हैं जिनके इस संयुक्त उद्यम में भाग लेने की सम्भावना है; और

(ग) सरकार द्वारा देश में अब तक ऐसी कितनी परियोजनाओं को मंजूरी दी गई है, इन परियोजनाओं की लागत तथा क्षमता का राज्य-वार ब्यौर क्या है और इन पर किस तिथि से कार्य प्रारम्भ होगा?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): (क) और (ख) उत्तर प्रदेश में मैसर्स शेल इन्टरनेशनल पेट्रोलियम कंपनी लि. (शेल) के साथ एक संयुक्त उद्यम के रूप में 7 मिलियन मीट्रिक टन प्रतिवर्ष क्षमता की रिफाइनरी स्थापित करने के लिए भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड को प्रथम चरण का अनुमोदन मई, 1997 में दिया गया था। विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट की तैयारी भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड तथा शेल द्वारा संयुक्त रूप से आरंभ की गई थी। तथापि, जुलाई 1998 में शेल ने संकेत दिया था कि वे परियोजना से पीछे हट रहे हैं, और उसके बाद से उन्होंने विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट की तैयारी में भाग नहीं लिया है। भारत पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन लिमिटेड ने विस्तृत व्यवहार्यता रिपोर्ट तैयार कर ली है और उसे सरकार को प्रस्तुत कर दिया है।

(ग) ऐसे संयुक्त उद्यम प्रस्तावों की स्थिति पर जानकारी निम्नानुसार है: