

Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas in the Country

241. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether crude oil and natural gas production has registered any considerable growth in the year 1997-98;

(b) if so, to what extent, along with the details of production during 1997-98, 1996-97 and 1995-96; and

(c) the consequent reduction in the oil import bill affected thereby and the budgetary saving resulted thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The crude oil and natural gas production increased during 1997-98 as compared to production level achieved in 1996-97. The details of production and import bill during 1997-98, 1996-97, 1995-96 are:—

Year	Crude Oil (MMT)	Natural Gas (Million cubic metres)	Import Bill (Rs. Crore)
1995-96	35.167	22308	24095
199-97	32.901	22745	34172
1997-98	33.858	24720	28329

The estimated reduction in import bill due to increased indigenous crude oil and gas production during 1997-98 as compared to 1996-97 is about Rs. 2395 crores.

गैर-सरकारी पेट्रोलियम परियोजनाओं का असंतोषजनक कार्यनिष्पादन

242. श्री चीमनभाई हरीराई शुक्ला : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र द्वारा स्थापित की जा रही बहु-प्रतीक्षित तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस परियोजनाओं के परिणाम बिल्कुल निराशाजनक रहे हैं;

(ख) क्या इन परियोजनाओं की कार्यप्रणाली में बहुत सी कमियाँ पाई गई हैं और उनका प्रशासनिक ढांचा इस संबंध में निर्धारित नियमों के कार्यक्षेत्र से बाहर है;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इसके परिणामस्वरूप प्रतिवर्ष अत्यधिक वित्तीय भार सहन करना पड़ रहा है;

(घ) क्या वित्त मंत्रालय और प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने इस संबंध में अपनी गंभीर चिंता प्रकट की है; और

(ङ) क्या इस संबंध में मंत्रालय और गैर-सरकारी क्षेत्र के बीच समन्वय का अभाव है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) : (क) से (ङ) निजी क्षेत्र की परियोजनाओं की कार्यविधि और प्रशासनिक संरचना पर संबंधित निजी कंपनियों का संपूर्ण आधिपत्य है, और सरकार द्वारा उनकी समीक्षा सांविधिक अपेक्षाओं के मामले के अतिरिक्त नहीं की जाती। सरकार उनकी परियोजनाओं के प्रचालन/क्रियान्वयन के तौर पर कोई वित्तीय भार भी वहन नहीं करती।

Delay in Release of Paraffin Wax to Kerala

243. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the High Court of Kerala has given a direction to release the last year quota of paraffin wax to Kerala;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for delay in The release of paraffin wax quota to the State?

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

(b) and (c) The required information is being gathered and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Status of Families Below Poverty Line

244. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number-of families belonging to SCs/STs and Other Backward Classes who are living below the poverty line in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of those families has been increasing in comparison to the last two years;

(c) if so, the full details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taking by Government to bring these families above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the percentage of Scheduled

Caste and Scheduled Tribe population living below the poverty line from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons as obtained from the National Sample Survey (NSS) data on consumer expenditure. The latest state-wise estimates in this regard are available for the year 1993-94, based on the NSS consumer expenditure data of 50th Round. These are given in the statement (*See below*). The estimates of number of SC/ST families living below the poverty line are not available.

(b) and (c) In rural areas, the incidence of poverty among the Scheduled Caste population is observed to decline from 49.86% in 1987-88 to 48.11% in 1993-94 and among the Scheduled Tribe population, from 57.15% to 51.94% during the same period. In urban areas, the incidence of poverty among the Scheduled Caste population is observed to decline from 55.26% in 1987-88 to 49.48% in 1993-94 and among the Scheduled Tribe population, from 50.03% to 41.14% during the same period.

(d) A number of programmes are being implemented to improve the income of the poor, particularly of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. These include programmes for raising income and generating employment opportunities such as integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY), Griha Kalyan Yojana (GKY), Urban Basic Services for the Poor (UBSP), and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMIUEP). Most of these programmes have a component for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population, particularly those living below poverty line.