

**Import of Crude Oil, Petrol and Diesel**

1364. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil, petrol and diesel imported during 1995-96 and 1996-97, upto 31st January, 1997;

(b) the projection of such imports in 1997-98;

(c) whether there is any prospect for holding prices steady in the domestic market;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the mechanism to calibrate domestic oil prices in relation to prices of imported oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Import of crude oil, petrol and diesel are as under:—

(Qty: Million Tonne Value : Rs. Crores)

|              | 1995-96* | 1996-97* |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| Crude oil    |          | 28.377   |
| Qty          | 27.342   | 15672    |
| Value        | 11517    |          |
| MS (Petrol)  |          |          |
| Qty          | 0.435    | 0.267    |
| value        | 282      | 200      |
| HSD (Diesel) |          |          |
| Qty          | 12.852   | 10.696   |
| Value        | 7761     | 7977     |

\* : Provisional.

(b) Import of crude oil and petroleum products for 1997-98 would depend on over-all consumption & indigenous production of crude oil and petroleum products.

(c) to (e) The prices of petroleum products are administered by the Government through the oil pool account mechanism. The oil pool accounts are supposed to be self balancing. However, the pool account has been in deficit and the cumulative outstandings of the oil

companies are estimated to be Rs. 15,500 crores as on 31.3.97. The position of the oil pool account is monitored on a continuous basis and Government takes necessary steps to contain the deficit, from time to time.

**Petrol/Diesel outlets in Andhra Pradesh**

1365. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had fixed any targets for opening of petrol and diesel outlets in Andhra Pradesh in 1996-97;

(b) if so, the district-wise details of those targets;

(c) whether it is a fact that adequate number of outlets are not available in the State; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to open more diesel/petrol outlets in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) 1263 retail outlet dealerships were in operation in Andhra Pradesh as on 1.10. 1996. In addition to the above, 80 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the retail outlet marketing plan 1993-96 and 19 retail outlet dealerships have been proposed for Andhra Pradesh in the draft retail outlet Marketing Plan 1996-97. These are sufficient to cater to the present requirement of the consumers of the State.

**Dismantling of Administered Pricing Mechanism in the Oil Sector**

1366. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to dismantle the administered pricing mechanism in a phased manner;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any plans to protect the interests of public sector oil refineries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The report of "Strategic Planning Group" formed for restructuring of the National Oil Industry is being examined by the Government.

**Capacity of Mangalore Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Corporation**

1367. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present capacity of the Mangalore Refineries and Petro-Chemicals Corporation;

(b) whether there is any plan to increase the capacity; if so, to what extent;

(c) whether there is any proposal to place orders with the Joint Sector Refinery Companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The existing capacity of Mangalore Refineries & Petrochemicals (MRPL), a Joint Venture between HPCL and Indian Rayon & Industries Limited, is 3 MMTPA. Government on 21.11.96, has, however, approved expansion of its refining capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA.

**Import and Sale Prices of Crude Oil**

1368. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) at what price the crude oil is being imported and sold by Government; and

(b) whether the import is made directly through the Government of the concerned country or it is imported through other channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) IOC is canalising agency for import of crude oil. The crude

oil imports are arranged by IOC through long terms contracts with National Oil Companies of various oil producing countries as approved by Government and also through issue of tender enquiries to the parties registered with IOC. Import of crude oil is arranged at market related prices prevailing at the time of loading of respective cargoes. IOC gives this imported crude at its purchase price to the refineries in the country.

**Extension of LPG Marketing to the Rural Areas**

1369. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that LPG marketing is being extended to rural areas, contiguous to the urban areas; and periodical surveys are being conducted to identify such rural areas; (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many villages have been identified in Gujarat for extending LPG marketing facilities and how many villages have actually been extended the facility, so far; and

(d) how many of such villages are likely to be covered during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, As per the latest policy of the Government in order to extend LPG marketing to rural areas, all towns in the country with a population of 10000 and above, offering adequate potential for a commercially viable distributorship after considering the population of adjoining villages within 15 kms radius, are to be included in the Marketing Plan under preparation.

(c) and (d) LPG distributorships are at present opened in towns only. In order to extend the facility to the villages, Oil Industry has been advised to identify towns having a population of 10000 and above for opening of LPG distributorships, after consideration of the