

(a) the perspective planning of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) with regard to the estimated quantity of crude and gas to be explored in next five years;

(b) whether the recovery of crude and gas has been gradually on the decline from the existing off-shore oil fields and on-shore wells;

(c) whether the ONGC is adopting latest technology in its exploration activities to boost up production from existing reserves and locating new oil fields; and

(d) whether any specialized treatment has been given so that quantity exported every year does not dwindle successively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) ONGC, at present, is carrying out exploration in its onland and offshore operational areas according to XI Plan (2007-12) exploration programme which has been formulated with an exploration strategy that leads to establishment of new hydrocarbon reserves in a time-bound and cost-effective manner. Based on the results of XI plan, XII plan (2012-17) exploration programme will be formulated. The planning for hydrocarbon exploration in the country by ONGC for the next five years (2009-14) will include part of XI and part of XII plan periods. For the XI plan the estimated accretion of 572.9 Million Metric Tonne of Oil Equivalent (MMtoe) inplace (firm) has been envisaged with 189.2 MMtoe as an ultimate component, based on firm exploration programme.

(b) Yes Sir. As majority of oil/ gas production of ONGC comes from ageing fields which have crossed their peak production and the production from these fields is in natural decline phase. Moreover, the unfortunate fire accident at Mumbai High North (MHN) platform during 2005-06 and less than envisaged gain from ongoing Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/ Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes in Onshore Assets has contributed to the decline.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. ONGC employs the best-in-class technology for pursuing its Exploration & Production (E&P) objectives. To arrest decline and boost up production from existing fields, nineteen IOR/ EOR schemes have been formulated for 15 major fields of ONGC which are aimed at optimisation of production through infill drilling, water and gas shut-off, installation of artificial lifts, zone transfers, pressure maintenance, improving sweep efficiency and profile modification. On production front, ONGC is adopting latest/ proven state-of-the-art technologies suited for enhancing oil and gas production from existing fields. In addition, ONGC has also hired the services of world renowned domain experts and signed Memorandum of Understanding with International Agencies for identifying technologies and best practices.

Deregulation of sale prices of petrol and diesel

†177. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a draft proposal has been prepared for deregulation of the consumer sale prices of petrol and diesel in the country by keeping them out of the Government control;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details of the draft;

(c) whether the price of petrol will be less than their current sale price if the above products are brought under the policy of deregulation; and

(d) if so, the details of such reduction in prices of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) No decision has been taken to deregulate the consumer prices of Petrol and Diesel.

The quantum of price reduction in respect of Petrol and Diesel, as a result of deregulation would vary from time to time, in line with the movements in international oil prices, commercial considerations and market conditions.

Availability of cooking gas in Orissa

178. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic cooking gas distributors are creating artificial scarcity of gas and charging more prices for gas cylinder; and

(b) whether Government would ensure the availability of cooking gas as per the requirement in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the State of Orissa and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with their LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 103.60 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Orissa during April to December, 2008 as against 101.28 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year.

OMCs have not detected any cases of creating artificial scarcity by any of their distributors. However, OMCs have detected 102 established cases of overcharging of LPG against their LPG distributorships in the country, out of which 3 cases were established in the State of Orissa during the period April, 2008 to December, 2008. Action against all the erring distributorships was taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)

Black marketing of LPG cylinders in Delhi

179. MS. MABEL REBELLO:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL/GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is rampant black marketing of LPG cylinders in the capital city, Delhi;

(b) whether some raids were conducted by Government to assess the enormity of this menace; and