

transparent bidding process, wherein companies have the option to bid for exploration blocks as per their assessment of prospectivity, and all companies compete on basis of equal terms and conditions.

(d) and (e) Does not arise in view of reply given in part (c).

Sub standard quality of CRMB

2513. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints that the Crumb Rubber Modified Bitumen (CRMB), being supplied by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) from its refineries in Mathura, Panipat, Koyoli and Haldia, is of sub-standard quality, not conforming to the Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) specifications, and even without IOCL test report of CRMB;

(b) if so, the Government's response thereto; and

(c) what precautions IOCL is taking to ensure that quality of CRMB dispatched is as per BIS specifications and test report is given alongwith every dispatch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) To ensure the quality of CRMB, IOCL is taking due precautions by way of testing CRMB in the IOCL laboratory as per BIS specifications before release. The test report is given on demand to customers.

Adulteration of motor fuels with kerosene

2514. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 6.5 million BPL families depend on kerosene for their cooking and lighting needs;

(b) whether the oil marketing companies use markers on kerosene supplied by PDS to BPL families, to prevent adulteration of motor fuels with low priced kerosene;

(c) whether it is a fact that such markers are blended with kerosene and cause fumes which are toxic and carcinogenic; and

(d) if so, whether the markers are tested for human safety and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Allocation of Public Distribution System (PDS) Kerosene is made by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination only. Further distribution within the States/UTs

through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. The scale of distribution of PDS kerosene per card holder, is decided by the State Government and it varies from State to State. Some of the States are distributing PDS kerosene to Above Poverty Line (APL) cardholders in addition to BPL cardholders.

(b) With effect from 01 Jan 2009 no marker is used in kerosene.

(c) and (d) No marker is being blended with kerosene as on date. However, adequate precautions would be taken as and when marker is blended in PDS kerosene in future to safeguard against any health hazard.

Oil refinery in Rajasthan

†2515. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil and natural gas reserves have been discovered in various districts of Rajasthan; if so, the areas in which surveys for oil and gas reserves have been completed;

(b) whether the Central Government has finalized any plan for setting up of an oil refinery in any area of Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the details of area which has been selected for setting up of oil refinery and by when construction work would commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas has been discovered in the districts of Barmer, Jalore and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) Government of India had nominated Mangalore Refinery Private Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary company of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for setting up a Refinery. The proposal to set up an oil refinery in Barmer is subject to techno-commercial viability to be assessed by ONGC.

Increase in oil refining capacity of IOC

†2516. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has decided to increase the oil refining capacity of the country by investing Rs.60,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how much additional oil refining capacity this investment is likely to generate;

(c) whether Government has considered the economic aspect of increasing oil refining capacity of the country;

(d) if so, whether this project would be economically viable; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.