

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