

imports are planned by the OMCs on year to year basis based on the projected demand and the projected LPG availability from indigenous LPG production sources.

The supply demand scenario is monitored on a regular basis and as and when required, additional imports are also tied up in case there is a spurt in demand or if there is production loss from indigenous LPG sources.

Despite much higher volumes of domestic LPG made available as above, the spike in demand during end December-January due to unprecedented cold climatic conditions, coupled with prolonged intense fog in the northern region, law and order problem in some parts of the country causing disruptions and delays in rail as well as road movements of LPG resulted in a demand supply gap of a few days in some areas for solution.

LPG bottling Plants are being operated on Sunday/Holidays as well as their working hours being extended to meet the increased demand. Some cases of diversion of LPG to commercial use, overcharging etc. are reported from time to time. Action is taken on malpractices/irregularities established as per Dealership/Distributorship Agreement.

Modernization programme of ONGC

1308. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning a capital expenditure of about Rs. 26,000 crore for financial year 2011, up from Rs. 24,000 crore programmed for this fiscal, for expansion, exploration and modernization;

(b) if so, whether the phases I and phases II of the modernization undertaken by ONGC has been completed and the third is being implemented;

(c) whether the modernization plan covers replacement of old structures and pipelines; and

(d) to what extent ONGC would be able to fulfil the needs of the oil demands in the country after investing this amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has approved plan outlay of Rs. 24,720.21 crore for 2009-10 and Rs. 26,523.02 crore for 2010-2011 for exploration, production and allied activities.

(b) Exploration and Production operations are continuous process and different field development programmes and facility upgradation are planned in different phases for hydrocarbon production and suitable facility optimization as and when warranted.

(c) and (d) The modernization plan includes replacement and revamping of old structures, pipelines, facilities etc., which are primarily meant for maintaining the facilities for processing of crude oil and natural gas in compliance to statutory requirements with no direct relation to

production improvement. The extent of ONGC's crude oil contribution is anticipated to be 25.425 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) in 2010-11 and 26.582 MMT in 2011-12.

Gas exploration in Rajouri and Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir

1309. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that search for possibility of presence of gas etc. had been launched in Rajouri and Poonch areas of Jammu and Kashmir; and
- (b) whether that survey/exploration is continuing and with what result?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Commission carried out some regional geo-scientific evaluation and structural modeling to ascertain prospectivity in the nomination block 'Poonch-Rajouri' in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, as the operational area lies close to the Line of Control and environmentally sensitive, no further exploratory activities could be undertaken and subsequently the block was surrendered by ONGC on 31.1.2006.

Exploratory works of ONGC in Gujarat

1310. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has not started exploration in most of the nominated Blocks in the country, particularly in Mehsana, Bharuch and Surat;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) by when the exploration work is likely to be started in the remaining blocks of Mehsana, Bharuch and Surat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) ONGC has commenced exploration work in all the nomination blocks except three nomination exploration blocks in Nagaland viz. Singphan, Bhagty Bhandari and Dimapur. Exploration activities in these three blocks could not be started as the requisite permission have not been given by the Government of Nagaland.

Oil and gas reserves in Rajasthan

†1311. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has found reserves of oil and gas in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the areas of the State where reserves of Oil and Gas have been found,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.