

Waiver of import duty on naphtha

2676. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government are working on a plan to waive import duty on naphtha so that supplies can be procured at cheaper rates for the power plant to generate power at an affordable price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, *vide* customs notification no. 71/2006, Government of India has waived the duty on Naphtha to be imported by M/s. Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited (RGPPL) for use in generation of electricity in the power plants of RGPPL at Dhabol, District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.

Supply of Gas to Pipavav Power Project

2677. SHRI SURYAKANTBHAI ACHARYA:

SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had given commitment to the State of Gujarat for supply of adequate quantity of gas for the Pipavav Power Project from Tapti gas fields;

(b) whether Government have now advised the State Government to approach Tapti Joint Venture for a gas tie-up at a mutually negotiated price;

(c) whether a delegation of Gujarat MPs called on the Prime Minister in March, 2006 in this regard; and

(d) if so, what is the final outcome of the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) On the request

of the State Government of Gujarat, an 'in principle' allocation of natural gas to the extent of 2.25 MMSCMD was made in June, 2000 for the 650MW gas based power project proposed to be set up at Pipavav in Gujarat. This allocation was effective from the year 2003, subject to the condition that the Management Committee of the Tapti Field takes investment decision for the additional development of the field. The development plan for the production of additional gas from the mid and south Tapti fields has been approved by the Management Committee of the field. The plan is currently under implementation and additional production is likely from mid 2007. PMT JV has been allowed to market their gas at market—related prices. The Pipavav project developers may like to tie-up gas from the projected additional production of PMT JV at market—related price.

(c) This Ministry had received through the Prime Minister's Office a copy of the letter dated 8.3.06 addressed to the Prime Minister by Members of the Parliament.

(d) At present, there is no increase in gas production by PMT JV. The additional gas from Tapti fields is likely to be produced from mid 2007. The Pipavav project may like to get in touch with PMT JV to tie-up their requirements at mutually agreeable terms and conditions.

Allocation of Kerosene to Kerala

2678. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total quantity of kerosene allotted to Kerala under Public Distribution System had been reduced considerably from the period 2001-02 onwards;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total quantity of kerosene allotted to Kerala under Public Distribution System for the last five years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether any representation is submitted by the competent authority of Kerala for restoring the quantity of kerosene allocation as on the period of 2001-02; and

(e) if so, the action taken on above in details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHAJ. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the policy