

**C. SUSTAINABILITY**

1. Endorsing the importance of energy conservation for the protection of the environment and issues of climate change, the need for technological in the pursuit of cleaner and more environmentally-sound fossil fuel technologies was emphasized.

2. To this end, cooperation among Asian research and development centers and the promotion of conservation awareness among the general public were recognized a key instrumentalities.

**Exploration of crude oil in Rajasthan and Punjab**

114. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of crude oil explored in recent years in the State of Rajasthan and Punjab;

(b) whether Government are considering to set up any oil refinery plant in these States;

(c) if so, the details thereof, States-wise and

(d) if not, in the State of Rajasthan, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Heavy oil and bituman were discovered in the Baghewala area of Jodhpur district in Rajasthan in the year 1991 by Oil India Limited (OIL). The in-place reserves estimate of heavy oil is 24 MMT and of bitumen, 53 MMT.

As far as private/joint venture companies are concerned, crude oil (proved initial in-place) reserves discovered in Rajasthan in recent years are about 156.2 Million Metric Tonne (MMT).

No crude oil has been discovered in Punjab yet.

(b) to (d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is setting up an oil refinery at Bathinda (Punjab). Crude inputs for the refinery will be transported from Mundra port (Gujarat) through a cross-country pipeline.