

at Dahej in Gujarat. The gap between the demand and supply of natural gas could be met by using the regassified LNG from the proposed Dahej Terminal.

Petitions regarding the selections made by Oil Selection Boards

3023. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petitions pending in each high Court in the country regarding the selections made on the basis of interviews conducted by Oil Selection Boards during the period from March 20, 1996 to April 8, 1996; and

(b) the number of petitions, S.L.Ps and appeals etc. pending in the Supreme Court regarding the selections made during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per available information, at present one petition and one appeal in the Calcutta high Court and one petition in the High Court of Gujarat are pending regarding selections made on the basis of interviews conducted by Oil Selection Board during the period from March 20, 1996 to April 8, 1996.

Target fixed for issue of LPG connections

3024. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what target has been fixed regarding issue of new LPG connections during the current year;

(b) the number of new LPG connections issued by the various Oil Companies as on June, 2000; and

(c) what steps are being taken to increase the supply of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Government have a plan to release 1 crore LPG (domestic) connections during the Calendar year 2000.

(b) The number of LPG connections released during the period January — June, 2000 in the country was about 66 lakhs. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) Oil Industry has drawn the plan to augment the LPG production from 4484 TMT during 1999-00 to about 7071 TMT during 2001-02 and further to 9054 TMT by 2006-07.

Comprehensive CNG Transportation Policy

3025. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IOC has refused to give contract with regard to transportation of CNG to the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the reasons for such refusal;

(c) whether there is anything before Government to have a Comprehensive CNG Transportation Policy; and

(d) if so, by when Government are going to bring such a policy before the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. IOC is not transporting any CNG through ocean going vessels. Therefore, the question of refusal of giving contract of transportation of CNG to the Shipping Corporation of India does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Committees on the Petroleum Industry

3026. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been five Committees on the Petroleum Industry, which have submitted their reports in the last five years;

(b) whether each of these reports have been impelled by a common set of objectives which are to make the industry competitive, assure security of supply, provide access to consumers and protect the environment;

(c) Whether despite this, the oil industry is substantially the same as it was five years ago; and

(d) if so, what is the use of having Committees if their recommendations are not implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Committees are