

(b) Several measures have been taken to accelerate hydrocarbons explorations and production activities to meet the increasing demand of fuel, which include the followings:-

- (i) Carving out more and more areas of exploration for offer under various rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)/Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Policy.
- (ii) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.
- (iii) Acquisition of exploration acreages and producing properties overseas to bring in equity oil.
- (iv) Arresting decline from ageing fields.
- (v) Substitution of oil through use of alternative/non-conventional sources of energy such as Bio-Diesel, Ethanol-blended Petrol, extraction of gas from Gas Hydrates under the National Gas Hydrates Programmes (NGHP), etc.

(c) and (d) No, sir. The Government has extended the 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme 2002' upto 31st March 2014 under which the Government has been providing a subsidy of Rs. 0.82 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs. 22.58 per cylinder on Domestic LPG from the fiscal budget. Besides, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are also compensated for the under-recoveries incurred by them on sale of sensitive petroleum products under a Burden Sharing Mechanism involving the Government, the upstream oil Public Sector Undertakings and the OMCs.

Subsidy given by ONGC to the petroleum sector

†1518. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD :

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increase in the subsidy given by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to the petroleum sector in the first half of the financial year 2010-11;

(b) if so, the amount of this subsidy and the extent to which it exceeds that of last year; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that ONGC has earned profits even after giving subsidy during the said period; if so, the amount of the profits made?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) The details of assistance provided by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through price discounts under the burden sharing mechanism during the first half of 2009-10 and 2010-11 are given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
Period	2009-10	2010-11
	(April-September, 2009)	(April-September, 2010)
Assistance provided by ONGC	3059	8535

(c) The Profit after Tax (PAT) of ONGC during the first half of 2009-10 and 2010-11 is given below:

(Rs. in crore)		
Period	2009-10	2010-11
	(April-September, 2009)	(April-September, 2010)
Profit after Tax (PAT)	9938	9050

Note : PAT after taking into account financial support provided through price discounts to OMCs.

Extraction of Oil from Kochi High

1519. SHRI P. RAJEEVE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to restart the extraction of oil from Kochi High;
- (b) if so, by when the next phase would start; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (c) Government has not stopped exploration activities in Kochi High area in the Kerala-Konkan Offshore Basin. So far total nineteen (19) exploration blocks were awarded to various companies in Kerala-Konkan Offshore Basin including Kochi High area under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, out of which eleven (11) blocks have been relinquished. Exploration activities are going on in the remaining blocks.