

**News-Item "Pipavav Project to Get from Tapti Fields"**

75. SHRI BRAHMA KUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned Pipavav project to get from Tapti Fields which appeared in the Times of India (Ahmedabad Edition) dated 27th May, 2000;

(b) whether impasse between the Union Government and the State Government on allocation of gas has been resolved;

(c) if so, the details of resolution;

(d) the quantum of crude royalty increased to Gujarat; and

(e) the reasons for clearing gas allocation and increase in royalty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) An in principle allocation to the extent of 2.25 Million Standard Cubic Metre Per Day (MMSCMD) of natural gas from Tapti fields effective from 2003 has been made for the gas based power project proposed to be set up at Pipavav in Gujarat. The above allocation is subject to the investment decision to be taken by the Management Committee of the Tapti field for the additional development of the field.

(d) The rate of royalty on crude oil payable to the oil producing States including Gujarat has been increased from Rs. 578 per metric tonne (MT) to Rs. 750 per MT, with effect from June 01, 1999, and thereafter to Rs. 800 per MT, with effect from January 01, 2000, or 20% of the Well head value, whichever is lower.

(e) Various oil producing States had requested for review of the royalty on crude oil and separately Gujarat Government had requested for allocation of natural gas for the gas based power project at Pipavav.

**Proposal to open new Petrol Pumps in the country**

76. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the number of petrol pumps in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of petrol pumps functioning at present in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the details of petrol pumps proposed to be set up during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) As on 1.4.2000 there were 17,739 retail outlets in operation in the country, the Statewise details of which are given in the statement (*see below*). In order to meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plan, 927 locations have been included in the Marketing Plan 1996—98. Further on these basis of economic viability surveys, some more retail outlets may be set up during the remaining period of the Ninth Plan.

### Statement

#### *State-wise Retail outlets 1.4.2000*

State	
Andhra Pradesh	1364
Arunachal Pradesh	33
Assam	366
Bihar	1160
Gujarat	1108
Goa	72
Haryana	600
Himachal Pradesh	105
Jammu and Kashmir	133
Karnataka	1063
Kerala	776
Madhya Pradesh	1046
Maharashtra	1692
Manipur	28
Meghalaya	57

State	
Mizoram	14
Nagaland	29
Orissa	389
Punjab	1058
Rajasthan	1048
Sikkim	13
Tamil Nadu	1591
Tripura	33
Uttar Pradesh	2426
West Bengal	1120
Delhi	329
<b>Union Territory</b>	
Andaman and Nicobar	5
Chandigarh	39
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	4
Daman and Diu	4
Lakshadweep	0
Pondicherry	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17739</b>

#### **Extension to the Chairman of HPC**

77. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have granted unprecedented extension to the Chairman of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the terms of this extension;

(c) whether Government have the power to review such an extension;

(d) whether it is a fact that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation has suffered huge losses due to fire, etc. in its refineries in Andhra Pradesh;

(e) if so, the criteria adopted to judge executives for extension; and