

(d) with a view to contain the deficit in the oil pool account, the Government have taken a number of measures such as moving product prices towards import parity and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products.

Disinvestment of some OIL PSUs

85. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to go ahead with disinvestment of some oil public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry has opposed the decision of Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether his Ministry was not consulted prior to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Government has decided to disinvest upto 10% of equity in Indian Oil Corporation (OIC) during the current financial year after the restructuring of stand-alone refining companies is completed. The decision has been taken in consultation with Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Payment by ONGC to Andhra Government

86. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

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

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission is to pay Andhra Pradesh Government for construction of Bridge on Vishist river between Yanum and Yedhurulanka; and

(b) by when the amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) had committed for payment of Rs. 6.00 crores for a bridge on Vishist river. The full payment has already been released to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh by ONGC. As regards, the bridge between Yanum and Yedhurulanka, ONGC had agreed to contribute a sum of Rs. 10.00 crores in four instalments of Rs. 2.50 crores each. ONGC has already released the first instalment of Rs. 2.50 crores. Release of the second, third and final instalment will be made on receipt of a certificate from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh by ONGC that 40%, 70% and 100% of the construction work respectively, has been completed and no time frame can be set.

Strategy on OIL Exploration

87. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated comprehensive strategy on oil exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided on production sharing norms for the New Exploration Licensing Policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to increase self-sufficiency in oil sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) As per the Ninth Five Year Plan, the thrust area of exploration and production of crude oil and natural gas are:

- Expeditious implementation of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- Acceleration of exploration efforts, especially in deep offshore areas and also in frontier area.
- Improvement in reservior management and enhancing of oil recovery.
- Exploration and exploitation of Coal Bed Methane.
- Private participation in Exploration and Production activities.