

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The MOU targets and actual crude oil production of ONGC during the last five years *i.e.* from 1995-96 to 1999-2000 are as given below:—

(Figures in MMT)

Year	MOU target (*)	Actual Production (*)
1995-96	33.316	31.635
1996-97	31.092	28.686
1997-98	27.733	28.250
1998-99	28.101	26.385
1999-2000	25.800	24.648

*Including condensate;

MOU: Memorandum of Understanding

MMT: Million Metric Tonne

Note: Above figures exclude the contribution from fields being operated by Joint Venture / Pvt. Parties.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Backlog of LPG connections and dealers for oil companies

113. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of LPG connections and also the backlog of dealers for the oil companies; and

(b) the reason for the delays and whether it makes any sense for Government to appoint dealers when the sector will be totally deregulated in the next two years under which the oil firms would be allowed to appoint their own dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to release around 1 crore connections by 31.12.2000 in order to liquidate the waiting list existing with distributors of Public Sector Oil

Companies as on 1.12.1999. The Oil Marketing Companies appoint Dealers / Distributors for retail outlets and SKO-LDO dealerships / LPG distributorships on the recommendations of the Dealer Selection Boards constituted by the Government. As a large number of locations are pending for the selection of dealers/distributors, Government have recently set up 57 new Dealer Selection Boards and with this the process of selection is on.

The Government lay down guidelines for appointment of Dealers / Distributors of petroleum products by Oil Marketing Companies on merit for making available petroleum products to the consumers. Interests of various categories viz. persons belonging to SC/ST, women, freedom fighters, defence personnel, outstanding sportsperson, physically handicapped, paramilitary / police / government personnel have been kept in view by providing reservation for them. Government are aware of the deregulated scenario after 31.3.2000.

News-item 'Swadeshi lobby irked over FDI in Refineries'

114. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: 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 Swadeshi lobby irked over FDI in refineries which appeared in the Business Standard (New Delhi), dated 13th June, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development of adequate refining capacity in the country is one of the important policy concerns for ensuring oil security in the country which is heavily dependent on imports of crude oil. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is beneficial to the domestic refining industry in terms of augmenting longterm capital inflow into this risky business, access to modern technology for improving refining efficiency. Further, the expectation is that such a measure would augment existing sources of crude supply.

Review of performance of petroleum sector

115. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of petroleum