

[7 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

In terms of the Declaration, the two countries have agreed to develop "a strategic energy partnership based on complementary and interdependence". The elements of this "Partnership" shall include:

- (i) joint ventures in the public and private sectors in the upstream and downstream oil and gas sectors in India and Saudi Arabia as well as in third countries;
- (ii) Saudi investments in oil refining, marketing and storage in India; and
- (iii) setting up of Indo-Saudi ventures for gas-based fertilizer plants in Saudi Arabia.

The Declaration provides that the two Governments would support the efforts of the business persons of the two countries to pursue cooperative projects for mutual benefit.

The Delhi Declaration is expected to provide a sound basis for profitable and mutually beneficial Indo-Saudi cooperation in the petroleum sector in the coming years.

(b) The Government of India is keen to cooperate with Saudi Arabia as per the letter and spirit of the Delhi Declaration. The advantages to India would be as follows:

- (i) Indo-Saudi Cooperation will provide supplies of oil and gas to India on long term basis.
- (ii) Again, participation in each other's projects in the down stream area will provide both sides with substantial quantities of petroleum products which can be utilized domestically as also exported to different parts of the world.
- (iii) From gas based fertilizer projects, India could obtain urea at economical rates which would benefit India's fertilizer sector.

Demand for more supply of gas from ONGC and GAIL

*228. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a well-known Dairy at Mehsana are repeatedly demanding for more supply of gas from ONGC and GAIL;
- (b) whether they have made representation to the Petroleum Ministry;
- (c) if so, reasons for ONGC and GAIL not heeding their request for

supply of gas which is being produced in the same district, Mehsana of Gujarat; and

(d) in the recent meeting with Petroleum Ministry whether and what solution was reached between the parties?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Dudhsagar Dairy in Mehsana District of Gujarat State has made a representation to the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for increasing their gas supplies.

(c) Dudhsagar Dairy is supplies gas, along with the other customers, from Shobhasan gas field in Gujarat. As against a total allocation of 96,600 standard cubic metres per day (SCMD) gas from this field, the availability at present is only about 65,000 SCMD. As against their contracted quantity of 32,500 SCMD, Dudhsagar Dairy received an average gas supply of 32,949 SCMD during January 2006. It has not been found possible to accede to their request to increase the supply, considering the overall shortage of gas supply form Shobhasan field.

(d) In a meeting held on 6.2.2006 in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, it was decided that ONGC would work out the feasibility of diverting some gas from Nandasan field to the Shobhasan field for supplying to M/s. Dudhsagar Dairy.

Shortage of Commanders in Alliance Air

*229.SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of commanders and co-pilots in Alliance Air as on 1st March, 2005 was made up;

(b) the vacancies of commanders and co-pilots in Alliance Air as on date; and

(c) what strenuous efforts are being made to fill up the present backlog of vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The vacancies of Commanders and co-pilots in Alliance Air based on 7 B-737 aircraft and 4 ATR aircraft as on 1st March, 2006 are 24 and 11 respectively.

(c) Alliance Air advertised in the newspapers on 14th December 2005 for the post of Commanders and Co-Pilots. Some applications for the post of Co-Pilots have been received but no application has been received for