

[16 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) whether it is a fact that Naptha mixed petrol fumes are harmful from environmental and health point of view; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to prevent such adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The possibility of mixing of Naptha with petrol by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to substantial price differential between petrol and Neptha and the easy miscibility of Naptha with petrol.

(b) Yes, Sir. If petrol is mixed with Naptha, it affects the Octane Number and thereby combustion, which leads to increase in unburnt Hydrocarbon and Carbon-monoxide emissions.

(c) Government have issued the Naptha (Acquisition, Sales, Storage and Prevention of Use in Automobile) Order, 2000 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prevent diversion and misuse of naptha for adulteration. State Governments have been empowered under this Order to take action in the case of malpractices/irregularities. Also, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take action against their dealers under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), for adulteration in petrol.

Criteria for new blocks for exploration

3281. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of blocks to be offered for exploration under NELP-VI;

(b) the technical and evaluation criteria decided by Government for NELP-VI;

(c) whether allegation have been levelled in sending officers abroad for studying various aspects of NELP;

(d) if so, the officers who were sent to foreign countries;

(e) whether these officers possess the desire qualification, experience and expertise in this field; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government of India on 23rd February, 2006 offered 55 blocks comprising 24 deepwater, 6 shallow water and 25 onshore blocks.

(b) The Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) for NELP-VI provide a quantitative evaluation criteria with points allocated to technical capability, work programme and fiscal package offered to the Government. In addition, the bidders are required to confirm to carry out mandatory 2D seismic data acquisition, processing and interpretation as stipulated against each of the 55 blocks. The technical capability of only the designated operator will be taken for evaluation. The financial capability of the bidders is based on a qualifying criteria linked to the network of the bidding companies.

(c) to (f) The officers from Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) were deputed for holding promotional road shows at various international locations having concentration of exploration and production companies and other potential investors. Technical officers of DGH were also deputed to man the data centres to facilitate review of data by companies of the blocks on offer and also provide clarifications sought by the companies. No officer was deputed for studying various aspects of NELP-VI. This Ministry has received an anonymous complaint alleging favouritism against certain set of DGH officials. 18 officials of DGH were deputed for promotional road shows manning data centres. The officials deputed by DGH for various data centres have relevant qualifications/experience.

Supply of gas to Dhoalpur Combined Cycle Project

†3282. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the gas would be provided for Dhoalpur Combined Cycle Project;

(b) the quantity of the gas to be provided and from where the same would be provided;

(c) the price of the gas; and

(d) the scheme to ensure the availability of Gas?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.