

Resumption of oil imports from Iran

3694. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the oil imports to India from Iran are likely to resume soon;
- (b) if so, the details of terms and conditions agreed upon by Iran; and
- (c) whether it is long term solution or a short term one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) There was no interruption in oil import from Iran to India's refineries, although in respect of two oil refining companies there was some delay in the shipments during the month of August, 2011. The terms and conditions between the Indian refineries and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) remain the same, *i.e.*, as per the term contract between the two sides for 2011-12.

After the Asian Clearing Union was withdrawn by the RBI in December 2010, the government has operationalized a new payment mechanism under which payments are being made to NIOC, and the system is working well at this juncture.

Non-adherence of guidelines under kerosene delivery supply system

†3695. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any direction to check misuse of kerosene was issued to oil companies by Government in 1993 under kerosene delivery supply system;
- (b) if so, details thereof;
- (c) whether these guidelines are fully adhered to by all the oil companies and the details thereof;
- (d) the reasons, if any, for non adherence to these guidelines; and
- (e) whether Government would consider implementation of these guidelines and system in all the States?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had advised the State Governments in 1993 regarding delivered supplies of Kerosene by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and other matters related to distribution and marketing of kerosene. It was advised by the Government that OMCs should begin delivered Supplies of PDS Kerosene w.e.f. 01.01.1994 to dealers having storage facilities in bulk. Also, OMCs were advised to arrange for bulk storage facilities by 31.03.1994.

(c) to (e) Distribution of kerosene under the Public Distribution System is a State subject and as such it is fully controlled by the State Government Authorities. Implementation of these directives is the responsibility of the State Governments. The status of implementation of directives regarding delivered supplies of Kerosene by OMCs is as under :

- (i) In States like Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, the Kerosene Dealers' Association went to Court and obtained a stay against the PDS Kerosene Delivered Supply Scheme.
- (ii) In States like Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, the scheme was implemented w.e.f. 01.01.1994 but subsequently reverted back to Ex-MI (Marketing Installation) supplies.
- (iii) In certain States like Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Jharkhand, the delivered supply scheme of PDS Kerosene was partially implemented.
- (iv) In the North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, Delivered Supply Scheme for PDS Kerosene was already in vogue before this Ministry's directives of 1993.
- (v) Delivered Supply Scheme is also prevalent in the notified hilly areas across the country.
- (vi) A few State Governments like Gujarat, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal, Sikkim, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan did not implement the scheme.

OMCs have reported that distribution of PDS Kerosene being a State Subject, since different State Governments responded differently on the directives issued by this Ministry on delivered supplies of Kerosene, there was no uniformity in implementation of these guidelines.