

**Demand and supply of Bitumen to North-Eastern States by IOC**

864. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The details of demand and supply of quality bitumen to North-Eastern States for construction of roads by IOC during last three years indicating quantities demanded, date and amount paid against quantities and date of actual supply, quantity yet to be despatched;

(b) the reasons for very dismal performance of IOC in supplying bitumen contributing towards further backwardness of NER;

(c) whether any accountability fixed on such negligence and any strategy finalised to streamline the procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) The amount of Bitumen supplied by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to North-Eastern States, during the last three years is given in Statement (See below).

There has been some shortfall in supplying of Bitumen in North-Eastern sector due to restricted availability of wagons by railways. IOC has already taken up the matter with Railways for making the rail wagons available on priority. Further in order to augment the supply of bitumen, IOC has maximised drum filling at Guwahati, Haldia and Uluberia and adequate stocks are normally maintained to meet the demand.

**Statement**

*(Figures in Thousand Metric Tonnes)*

Year	Quantity Supplied	Balance Order Quantity
1997-78	37.66	3.97
1998-99	28.93	6.55
1999-2000	37.16	5.38

**Expected New Refineries in Public Sector**

865. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many new refineries are expected to go up in the public sector in the next seven years;