

[31 st July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(f)*the steps Government have taken to nourish such joint ventures; and

(g) the details of steps taken in the last three months in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The joint sector oil refinery presently in operation is Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Ltd. (MRPL) at Mangalore (Karnataka).

(b)MRPL with an installed capacity of 3.69 MMTPA was commissioned in March, 1996. With the commissioning of their second unit of 6.0 MMTPA in September, 1999, the capacity of refinery was further increased to 9.69 MMTPA.

(c) MRPL showed profit in 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, there was loss in 1999-2000.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(0 and (g) Does not arise. All refineries, including joint venture refineries are compensated for their controlled products at import parity based refinery gate prices. They are allowed to market their decontrolled products. MRPL is allowed to import its crude oil requirements itself.

Diesel Scam in Gujarat

889. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 1000 crores diesel scam has been reported "m ^Ci StpPL and HPCL in Gujarat in May, 2000;

(b) the procedure followed for levying sales tax on sale of diesel; and

(c) the number of persons arrested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Some customers who were obtaining petroleum products on concessional sales tax basis are alleged

to have been diverting these products for the purpose other than the intended use thereby evading sales tax. Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case in the matter on 23rd May, 2000 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The sales tax being the State subject, the matter is regulated by the Sales Tax Laws of the respective State Governments.

Oil Import

890. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the countries from where oil is being imported;
- (b) the details of the oil import bills during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;
- (c) the estimated oil import bills during the current financial year; and
- (d) whether Government have taken any steps to improve India's position in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) Crude oil is imported from Nigeria, Angola, UK, Egypt, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Iran and Malaysia. Details of value of import are given in the statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Crude oil import bill depends on the quantum of crude oil imported. To contain oil import bill, steps have been taken to increase refining capacity by expansion of existing refineries in public sector and setting up of refineries in joint sector and private sector. Steps are also being taken to increase crude oil production in the country through application of improved technologies, development of new fields, additional development of existing fields and by inviting foreign and private capital in the upstream sector.