

(c) the details of success achieved by BHEL so far in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which new tie-ups has been able to help the BHEL to gain or access new technologies through such partnerships?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Joint Venture Company (JVC) for execution of Conventional Island (Turbine side) for 700 MWe nuclear power plants is contemplated to be set up between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), BHEL and Alstom of France.

BHEL is further making efforts to associate with other international nuclear reactor vendors for possible cooperation to manufacture the components of higher size reactors.

(c) BHEL has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in February 2011 with NPCIL and Alstom for formation of JVC for execution of Conventional Island (Turbine side) of Nuclear Power Plant for 700 MWe and above.

In January 2011, an MOU has also been signed between BHEL and GE-Hitachi (USA) for possible cooperation to Manufacture components of higher size reactors (1000 MWe and above).

(d) Based on the MOU signed between BHEL, NPCIL and Alstom for formation of an JVC, BHEL has received orders for manufacture and supply of Steam Turbine Generator package in consortium with Alstom for 2x700 MWe nuclear power plant of NPCIL at Kakrapar Units # 3 & 4. For this, Steam Turbine components are being manufactured and supplied by BHEL and Alstom, and balance equipment including erection and commissioning is being undertaken by BHEL. BHEL shall be manufacturing Steam Turbine components based on manufacturing drawings given by Alstom.

Limit on LPG cylinders per household

3062. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has worked out a proposal to limit the number of LPG cylinders for each household to seven per year;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the oil companies endorsed this proposal but the States and public representatives are opposing the same;

(c) the reasons for pushing forth the above proposal;

(d) whether the issue has been discussed by the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) held in the second week of May, 2011; and

(e) if so, the recommendation/outcome of the EGoM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) A proposal was worked out to restrict the number of cylinders to be supplied at subsidized rate to registered customers of domestic LPG but the Government has not taken a decision in this regard.

(b) The question of Oil Marketing Companies endorsing the proposal is not relevant, as the Public Sector OMCs are mandated to carry out policy decisions of the Government. Although some Public Representatives have raised concerns relating to the proposal to restrict the number of subsidized refills, the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2010-11) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) in its 8th Report has recommended that in order to restrict the increasing burden of subsidy, supply of the Domestic LPG refills should be done away with rich and affluent people with income of Rs.6 lakhs and above per annum, including those holding constitutional posts, public representatives like MPs, MLAs/MLCs.

(c) At present, subsidy on account of Domestic LPG is unlimited, as there is no restriction on the number of refills supplied to a household. The proposal was intended to restrict the quantum of subsidy payable by the Government.

(d) and (e) The proposal was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Under-recoveries of the Oil Marketing Companies for consideration, in its meeting held on 8th August, 2011, however, the item was deferred.

Outdated technologies of Indian oil refineries

3063. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old technology of Indian refineries are one of the major reasons for high cost of petrol diesel and kerosene in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan is there to solve the issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Price of petroleum products are not based on the cost of production.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Awarding of exploratory block to Cairn energy

3064. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cairn energy was awarded RJ-ON-90/1 Block under pre-NELP;