

Joint Venture of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Mittal Energy Investments Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a 9 MMTPA refinery at Bathinda, Punjab and Indian Oil Corporation Limited is also setting up a 15 MMTPA refinery at Paradip, Orissa.

(c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has commissioned a study on pre project activities for a 9 MMTPA grassroot refinery at Ratnagiri district in the State of Maharashtra.

#### **Cooperation with Saudi Arabia in hydro-carbon exploration**

122. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought greater co-operation from Saudi Arabia in exploration and production of oil and other hydrocarbons to cater to its growing energy demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has also agreed to participate jointly with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the exploration and production activities in the two countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) To strengthen the country's energy security, our oil PSUs are continuously exploring opportunities for collaboration with E and P Companies, including those from Saudi Arabia, for joint participation in countries of mutual interest, including India and Saudi Arabia, in the upstream projects either through future licensing rounds or through Government to Government Channels or farm-in opportunities into producing assets/blocks under development having significant proven reserves, subject to techno economic evaluation.

#### **Supply of gas to Talcher unit of FCI**

†123. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that adoption of gas-based technology is under consideration in order to re-start many closed fertilizer factories in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Talcher Odisha unit of Fertilizers Corporation of India (FCI) has entered into an agreement with the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL):

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.