

related to safety and health at the supply location of petroleum products. Health monitoring of staff handling toxic products is carried out regularly and health records are maintained as per the laid down standards.

Further, BPCL and HPCL have installed Vapour Recovery System (VRS) Stage-I at their supply locations i.e. Bijwasan, Delhi and Loni, Pune respectively. Further, some OMCs have also installed VRS Stage-II systems at some of their retail outlets including in Delhi. Such systems help to recover the fuel-vapours which get generated while fuelling a customer's vehicle from under-ground storage tank.

#### **Charging of marketing margin by natural gas producers**

120. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has communicated or in the process of doing so with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers about policy matter of marketing margin charged to fertilizers industry by private sector natural gas producers; and

(b) by when Government will declare the final policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) On references made by the Department of Fertilizers seeking clarification on the marketing margin being charged by Reliance Industries Limited on the sale of natural gas to the fertilizers industry, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has referred the issue of marketing margin applicable on sale of natural gas by any marketer to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under section 11(j) of PNGRB Act, 2006. Accordingly, the Board has been entrusted with the determination of the quantum of Marketing Margin chargeable on the sale of natural gas to end consumers by a marketing entity, on the basis of the marketing costs incurred by it.

#### **Establishment of new refineries**

121. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is planning to set up refineries in some States in the near future;

(b) if so, the names of the States; and

(c) whether Maharashtra is also being considered for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Consequent to de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998, a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a private or public sector company depending on its techno-commercial viability. A

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.