

(a) whether it is a fact that Vedanta Resources is keen to take on a stake in the Rs.20,000 crore oil refinery project in Rajasthan;

(b) which of the Indian companies are likely to be stakeholders in the venture; and

(c) the quantum of refined oil likely to be produced, annually, by this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) So far, there is no concrete proposal to set up a refinery in Rajasthan.

Restriction on sale of gas by contractors

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

(a) whether while inviting bids for NELP I to VI, Government had promised contractors that they would be free to sell gas in domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) also provide that contractors have the freedom to market the gas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons for Government violating the PSC by restricting sale of gas to parties chosen by it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) Article 21 of NELP Production Sharing Contract (PSC) contains stipulations on domestic sale obligations and marketing freedom of the Contractor in respect of natural gas. The relevant provisions from NELP-I to NELP-VI PSC are reproduced below:

21.1 Subject to Article 21.2, the Indian domestic market shall have the first call on the utilization of Natural Gas discovered and produced from the contract area. Accordingly, any proposal by the Contractor relating to discovery and production of Natural Gas from the contract area shall be made in the context of the Government's Policy for the utilization of natural gas and shall take into account the objectives of the Government to develop its resources in the most efficient manner and to promote conservation measures.

21.2 The Contractor shall have the right to use Natural Gas produced from the Contract Area for the purpose of Petroleum Operations including reinjection for pressure maintenance in Oil Fields, gas lifting and captive power generation required for Petroleum Operations.

21.3 For the purpose of sales in the domestic market pursuant to this Article 21, the Contractor shall have freedom to market the Gas and sell its entitlement.

LPG subsidy

†579. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

- (a) whether Government is going to abolish subsidy on LPG;
- (b) the norms fixed by Government for abolishing subsidy; and
- (c) whether subsidy for the BPL persons will continue and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Oil export to Pakistan

580. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and Pakistan have held series of talks over export of refined fuel to Pakistan in near future from Punjab's Bathinda Oil Refinery; and
- (b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Pursuant to the decisions taken in the 5th Round of Talks on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the Commerce Secretaries of India and Pakistan held in Islamabad on 27-28 April 2011, a 'Group of Experts' to Expand Trade in Petroleum Products between India and Pakistan' was constituted.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.