

Requirement of petroleum products for the country

*257. SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the requirement of petrol, diesel and gas for the country at present;
- (b) the steps needed to meet these challenges;
- (c) how much the country depends on imports and what is its cost; and
- (d) by when this burden will be minimized?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) to (d) Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC) has reported that as per the Original Estimates (OE), the estimated demand of petrol, diesel and LPG is 16335 MT, 73500 MT and 16712 MT respectively in the country in the year 2013-14. Crude oil from which these products are derived has to be largely (78.75% import) imported. As per the Working Group Report of this Ministry for the 12th Five Year Plan, the estimated demand of petroleum products during 2016-17 would be 186.2 MMT. As on 01.07.2013, the refining capacity in the country is 215 MMTPA which is more than the domestic demand of products. During 2012-13 the production of petroleum products in the country, including production from fractionators was 217.8 MMT (Provisional) as against the demand of 155.4 MMT. Thus, the present refining capacity is adequate to meet the demand of petroleum products in the country in near future on an overall basis. However, some products like LPG and Lubes are in deficit, which are being imported. The net import (Prov.) of LPG and Lubes was 6093 TMT (Value Rs.30402 crore) and 1409 TMT (Value Rs.8877 Crore) respectively during the year 2012-13.

Shortage of HIV kits

*258. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage of CD4 and viral load kits used in the detection and monitoring of the HIV virus infection and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the reason for shortage of these kits is the delay made by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) in placing tenders for procurement of those kits, and if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has failed to respond to the request of NACO in renewing the contract of procurement agent, RITES; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposal of Department of AIDS Control to extend the consultancy contract of procurement agent with M/s RITES Limited upto October 31st, 2013 has been approved.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation

*259. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to disinvest 5% government stake in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC);

(b) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu had opposed the disinvestment of NLC and;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reason for taking a decision to sale Government stake in contrary to the State Government's demand?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Government has disinvested 3.56% of the total equity out of Government of India's holding in Neyveli Lignite Corporation to comply with Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957.

(b) and (c) Initially Government of Tamil Nadu opposed the disinvestment. But it was explained to the Government of Tamil Nadu that achieving minimum public shareholding of 10% was a statutory requirement. Thereafter, on the request of Tamil Nadu Government, Government of India decided to change the method of disinvestment from Offer for Sale (OFS) to Institutional Placement Programme (IPP).