

(a) whether India is considering to increase crude oil imports from Iran so as to save US \$ 8.5 million in foreign exchange;

(b) whether it is a fact that India has slashed crude oil imports from Iran by 26.5 per cent during 2012-13, importing just 13.1 million tonnes against 18.1 million tonnes, the previous year;

(c) whether it is also a fact that during the remainder of the year, India is considering to import 11 million tonnes of crude oil from Iran; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Quantum of crude oil imported by Indian refineries from various sources is decided by them on the basis of technical, commercial and other considerations. The oil companies finalize the Term Contract volumes based on techno-economics and energy security point of view.

The total crude oil imported from Iran by Indian companies during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (MMT)
2013-14*	05.82
2012-13	13.14
2011-12	18.11
2010-11	18.50

\* upto November, 2013.

#### **Construction of special reservoirs for oil**

1378. SHRI RANBIR SINGH PARJAPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constructed special reservoirs for storage of oil to ensure energy security;

(b) if so, the manner in which these reservoirs are maintained along with the manner in which the safety of these reservoirs is ensured; and

(c) whether these reservoirs for oil are sufficient to deal with any emergency and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government, through Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), is setting up Strategic Crude Oil Reserves with storage capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tones (MMT) at three locations viz. Vishakhapatnam (Storage Capacity: 1.33 MMT), Mangalore (Storage Capacity: 1.5 MMT) and Padur (Storage Capacity: 2.5 MMT) to enhance the energy security of the country. The reserves are being constructed in underground rock caverns, which are considered the safest means of storing hydrocarbons. The reserves are being constructed as per the Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards. OISD has conducted safety audits of the reserves.

(c) Based on an approach paper prepared by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in December 2009, the aforesaid reserves being created in Phase-I would provide a cover of approx 13 days on the basis on net oil imports. Based on the crude oil and product storages already existing with the oil companies and also taking into consideration the storages being built by ISPRL, it was estimated that to have a total cover of 90 days on net oil imports, as suggested in the Integrated Energy Policy (IEP), the country would require additional crude oil storage of approximately 13.32 MMT by the year 2019-20.

In order to further increase the Strategic crude oil storage capacity, ISPRL through Engineers India Limited, has prepared a detailed feasibility study for construction of additional 12.5 MMT of crudcoil storages in Phase-II at four locations viz. Bikaner, Rajkot, Chandikhol and Padur.

#### **Training for power sector employees**

1379. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to expand the capacity of the National Power Training Institute (NPTI) in view of the requirements of skilled and non-skilled employees for the power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has asked the power companies in the public sector to pay special attention to provide training to their employees as well as provide opportunity to the employees of the private sector to get training; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?