

**Joint venture for Barmer refinery**

†863. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) by when the Ministry would authorize/designate a Joint venture company which is to be created for establishing Rajasthan Refinery, in case of shortage in process of produced crude and crude production from Barmer to get supply of imported crude oil through Barmer-Salaya pipeline; and

(b) the manner of help which the Central Government would provide to Rajasthan refinery project in series of relaxation especially in Excise Duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government has accorded its approval on 20.9.2013 to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd to set up 9 MMTPA Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex in Barmer District of Rajasthan in collaboration with Government of Rajasthan. HPCL has incorporated a Joint Venture Company namely, HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) to implement the project. HRRL will be required to import necessary crude only after the construction of the project is completed and at the time of commencement of commercial production. At present, the mechanical construction of the project has not started.

(b) No exemption in Excise Duty has been provided by Central Government for the proposed Rajasthan Refinery.

**Reduction of quarterly quota of Kerosene oil of States**

†864. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that the quarterly quota of Kerosene oil has been reduced in some States of the country;

(b) if so, the quantum-wise and State-wise details of quota reduced;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware that due to non-availability of Kerosene oil in the distant rural areas of the State of Uttarakhand, people are forced to live in darkness; and

(d) if so, whether the Minister would restore the previous quota of Uttarakhand and if not, the reasons therefor ?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.