

18 others were injured in the incident that took place in GAIL's Tatipaka-Kondapalli gas pipeline near Tatipaka terminal in East Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh on 27th June, 2014.

(b) and (c) A Committee comprising representatives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD), Petroleum Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) has been constituted for conducting an inquiry into the incident. The Committee is yet to submit its report.

(d) and (e) Ex-gratia payment of ₹ 25 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹ 1 lakh each to the injured persons has been handed over on 30.6.2014 and 06.7.2014. Besides, GAIL shall pay ₹ 5 lakh each to the permanently disabled persons.

Meeting the increasing energy demand

1633. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agrees that the energy demand has been increasing and is much higher than the supply/resources available;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed by Government to explore possibilities to meet the energy demand in the coming years;

(c) the details of the oil and gas assets owned by Government abroad;

(d) whether Government has any plans to strengthen relations with energy exporting countries in order to meet the shortage of petroleum products in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the year 2013-14, the consumption of petroleum products was 158.2 MMT against a total production of 35.5 MMT from indigenous sources (figures are provisional).

The following steps are being taken to meet the energy demand and strengthen the country's energy security:

- (i) Government and Exploration and Production (E&P) companies have taken several steps to enhance oil and gas production in the country, which *inter-alia*, includes:
- Offering of exploration blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) - 254 exploration blocks awarded.
 - Implementation of improved oil recovery and enhanced oil recovery schemes by E&P companies for ageing fields.
 - Development of unconventional sources of hydrocarbon such as Coal Bed Methane (CBM) and Shale Gas.
 - Policy for geo-scientific data acquisition through public funding.
- (ii) Pursuing various E&P opportunities in India and abroad to have a balanced portfolio of exploratory, developing and producing oil and gas assets.
- (iii) Pursuing transnational oil and gas pipeline projects.
- (iv) Construction of strategic crude oil reserves of 5.33 million metric tonnes capacity.

(c) Our oil companies have E&P assets in 24 countries namely, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, East Timor, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, USA, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen. OVL is currently producing oil and gas from 13 projects in 8 countries viz., Russia, Sudan, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Myanmar, Colombia, Venezuela and Brazil. During 2013-14, OVL's share in production of oil and oil-equivalent gas was 8.36 MMTOE.

(d) and (e) India is actively engaged in bilateral and multilateral cooperation with foreign countries. To strengthen the country's energy security, the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas is engaged in oil diplomacy. India's oil PSUs in particular are being encouraged to adopt a global vision in their pursuit of raw materials and raw material-producing assets abroad, and to vigorously pursue acquisition of oil and gas assets overseas.

Per unit cost of gas supplied by Reliance to Bangladesh and India

†1634. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.