(e) the steps taken by the Central Government to remove the restrictions to help the State-run-refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (d) As per the existing policy of Ministry of Shipping, all import contracts are to be finalised on Free on Board (FOB)/Free Alongside (FAS) basis in respect of Government owned/controlled cargoes on behalf of the Central Government Departments/ State Government Departments and public sector undertakings under them. For chartering of vessels, Oil PSUs float enquiry on global basis. If any Indian Ship Owner participates, then they have the Right of First Refusal. This procedure is adopted for all spot and time charter vessels. As per the Ministry of Shipping, the rationale of the policy for Government Departments and PSUs to import on FOB basis only is to ensure full utilisation of available Indian tonnage and to build national shipping tonnage.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been taking up the matter with Ministry of Shipping for permitting Oil PSUs to import of crude oil on FOB as well as CFR basis. In response, Ministry of Shipping has conveyed that the oil PSUs may approach Ministry of Shipping for grant of No Objection Certificate for CFR imports on a case-to-case basis. Accordingly, OMCs are being allowed to import crude oil on CFR basis after obtaining the approval of Ministry of Shipping on case to case basis.

(e) In the year 2005 and 2007, Government decided to allow oil PSUs, *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited to charter ships directly instead of routing their requirements through Ministry of Shipping.

Dependence on import of crude oil

†715. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the consumption of petro-products and for fulfilling needs of oil refineries in the country, supply of crude oil will become more dependent on the import of the same in the forthcoming years;

(b) if so, the percentage of this likely dependence in the next five years; and

(c) the growth in the percentage of dependence as against the existing percentage of dependence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The requirement of crude oil imports for consumption of petro-products and fulfilling the needs of oil

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

refineries is an inter-play of several factors like success in new production of crude oil, successful acquisition of assets or equity oil abroad, success in conservation efforts, etc.

In order to reduce import dependency on crude oil, Government has taken/is taking a number of initiative to increase domestic production of crude oil and to promote conservation of petroleum products.

To accelerate the pace of exploration and production of oil and gas in the country, various steps have been/are being taken by the Government as under:

(i) Project for survey of about 1.5 million square km. of unappraised area of the Indian Sedimentary Basins has been started through National Oil Companies to gather geo-scientific data for identifying prospective blocks.

(ii) Re-assessment of hydrocarbon resources making use of geo-scientific data gathered over the past couple of decades has been initiated to get a better understanding of the prospectivity of Indian Sedimentary basins.

(iii) A National Data Reository has been developed and is under trial now. It is a platform which will help access the geo-scientific data easily and help in carving out new hydrocarbon blocks.

(iv) 52 new blocks with in-principle clearances from various agencies have been carved out for offer under the next round of bidding.

(v) Policies for Exploration and Production are being reviewed for incentivizing and accelerating E&P activities.

(vi) A Policy for non-exclusive multi-client speculative survey for assessment of unexplored sedimentary basins is being implemented.

(vii) A policy framework for relaxations, extensions and clarification at the development and production stage under the PSC regime to remove rigidities in timelines with a view to early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries has been approved.

(viii) Revision in domestic gas price, with provision for premium for difficult areas (deep water, ultra deep water and High Pressure, High Temperature areas) has been approved.

(ix) Extension of 40% subsidy in North East Region to private companies operating in that region has been made.

(x) Exploration for shale oil and gas by National Oil Companies has been taken up.

Besides, Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), under the Ministry

of Petroleum and Natural Gas, has been given the mandate to promote conservation of petroleum products in the major sectors of economy like transport, industry, households and agriculture through direct technical assistance, R&D educational and training programmes and mass awareness campaigns. PCRA's activities cover conservation of all energy sources, development, evaluation and commercialization of efficient equipment and additives, popularizing production of bio-fuels, environment protection etc.

Complaints against LPG dealers

716. SHRI RAJ BABBAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints regarding non-supply of LPG to the consumers by the LPG dealers regularly in various parts of the country particularly in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the OMC-wise and State-wise action taken against the erring LPG distributors during the last three years and the current year;

(c) whether these distributors are also involved in black marketing/diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(f) if so, the action taken by Government against the dealers/distributors found involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (f) The possibility of malpractice/irregularities in subsidized domestic LPG cylinders cannot be ruled out due to the lower retail price of subsidized LPG for domestic use *vis a vis* the market price.

State/UT/OMC-wise (including Uttarakhand) details of established cases of delay in refill supplies and black marketing (overcharging and diversion) by LPG distributors during last three years are given in Statement-I and II (*See* below) respectively.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that inspections are carried out by their Field Officers, Anti Adulteration Cell and Vigilance Department at LPG godowns and showrooms of LPG distributorships. If an LPG distributor is found guilty of any malpractice, punitive action is taken in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).