

Low per 1000 sq. km. wells of oil and gas in the country

2675. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of oil and gas in India at around 20 wells per 1000 sq. km. is among the lowest in the world; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Oil and gas wells are drilled based on geology of the area, reservoir characteristics, rock type etc., in order to achieve optimal production from the wells. As on date under PSC regime, a total of 571 oil and gas wells are under production in Petroleum Mining Lease area of about 8680 sq. kilometre *i.e.* about 66 wells per thousand kilometres of Mining Lease area.

Revival of Oil Diplomacy Committee

2676. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to revive the Oil Diplomacy Committee established in 2004 and wound up in 2006; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No such committee exists presently and no such proposal is under consideration.

Resumption of negotiations with Iran for import of LNG

2677. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in 2005 an agreement had been initiated for the import of approximately 22 billion dollars worth of Liquefied Natural Gas from Iran at a price pegged at an international oil price of 36 dollar per barrel;

(b) whether that agreement was not eventually signed by the Iranian Government; and

(c) whether it is proposed to resume negotiations with Iran on long-term arrangements for the import of large quantities of LNG?