

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Indian Buyers (GAIL, IOCL and BPCL) signed bilateral Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) with National Iranian Gas Export Company (NIGEC), Iran on 13th June, 2005 for import of 5 MMTPA of LNG. Quantities required by the Buyers were as follows:

GAIL – 2 MMTPA

IOCL – 1.75 MMTPA

BPCL – 1.25 MMTPA

The contract price for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) was linked to Brent crude with a floor and cap of \$10/bbl and \$31/bbl respectively.

(b) According to the side letter signed along with the contract, NIGEC was required to obtain approval of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for the LNG SPA within 15 days. However, NIGEC neither secured this approval nor implemented the LNG SPA.

(c) With the lifting of sanctions, Iran is again planning LNG liquefaction facilities. An Indian delegation visited Iran during last week of July, 2015, wherein Indian side indicated their willingness to off take LNG from Iran.

Required *vis-à-vis* operating petrol/diesel pumps in the country

†2678. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol and diesel pumps required in the country, as on date;

(b) the number of petrol and diesel pumps operating, as on date, against the required number thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any plan to operate the required number of petrol and diesel pumps throughout the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that expansion of Retail Outlet Sales network by them is a continuous process to ensure adequate availability of fuels like petrol and diesel in upcoming urban/rural areas. Retail Outlets (ROs) are being set up by OMCs

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.