

Allowing oil companies to purchase crude oil at spot rate

†1235. SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allow oil companies to purchase crude oil at spot rate from international market, by formulating an independent import policy;

(b) the details of rate at which crude oil was purchased through tender process during last three years and corresponding prices of crude oil in international market at that time and how much more price had to be paid to procure crude because of contract of tender process; and

(c) whether private oil companies purchase crude oil at spot rate from international market as a result they have to pay less?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government has decided that Oil PSUs may formulate policies for import of crude oil in their best commercial interest and in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission, etc.

(b) and (c) The details of rate at which crude oil was purchased from 2013-14 to 2015-16 are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Further, the price of crude oil procured on spot basis through tender process is dependent on various factors like cargo size, quality, loading period, delivery basis (FOB/CFR) and other terms and conditions and hence the price paid by different buyers may not be comparable. Also, the price paid by other buyers for the same crude is generally not available in the public domain on account of confidentiality reasons.

Statement

Details of rate at which crude oil was purchased from 2013-14 to 2015-16

Name of the Company	Year	Weighted average of spot crude oil price for IOCL/FOB Rate for BPCL and HPCL (In US\$/bbl)
1	2	3
IOCL	2013-14	110.46
	2014-15	85.15

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

1	2	3
	2015-16	45.74 (provisional)
BPCL	2013-14	109.44
	2014-15	89.68
	2015-16	47.44
HPCL	2013-14	110.61
	2014-15	78.54
	2015-16	46.93

Exploration of oil wells in Bengal basin

1236. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bengal basin occupies an area of 89,000 sq. km. in total about which 57,000 sq. km. is on land and 32,000 sq. km. offshore up to 200m bathymetry;

(b) whether as per assessments of Government, Bengal Basin comes under category-III and some of the wells there under are reconsidered to be geologically prospective;

(c) if so, whether Government has decided to explore those wells commercially; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Bengal Basin occupies an area of 92,000 sq. km. in total of which about 57,000 sq. km. is onland and 35,000 sq. km. offshore up to 400m bathymetry.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. Bengal basin is presently kept under Category-III in term of its prospectivity. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited has so far drilled 43 exploration wells. Hydrocarbon indication has been observed in two exploratory wells namely Ichapur-1 and Golf Green-1 in onland area. However, commerciality has not yet been established

Introduction of kerosene marker system to check adulteration

1237. SHRI AAYANUR MANJUNATHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce kerosene marker system to ascertain adulteration diversion of kerosene in the country;