

Bio-Diesel Plant

1429. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up India's first bio-diesel plant in "rain shadow areas" shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the site selected for the purpose,

(c) whether it is likely to be a joint venture and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of funding agencies for the proposed plant?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Bio-diesel is produced by a chemical reaction between vegetable oils and methanol, and setting up of such plants, or modifications of existing chemical plants to produce bio-diesel do not require any industrial license or permission of the Central Government. As such, details of initiatives in setting up of bio-diesel plants are not centrally maintained. However, the Ministry of Rural Development, which is the nodal Ministry for implementation of report of the Committee on Development of Bio-Fuel brought out by the Planning Commission, has commissioned preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the Energy and Research Institute (TERI) New Delhi for the purpose.

Viability of plastic-to-petrol process

1430. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC's experiments conducted last year shows that plastic-to-petrol process invented by a couple of scientists yielded 40-60 per cent of liquid petroleum from a kilogram of waste plastic;

(b) if so, the details of research carried out by the scientists;

(c) whether the petrol so produced is economically viable; and

(d) if so, how Government are going ahead with this invention?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) A team of Scientists from Nagpur had conducted experiments jointly with IOC (R&D) Centre for converting

plastic waste into liquid hydrocarbon composite. The scientists converted ' plastic waste into liquid products (including gases) in the presence of catalytic additive. However, presence of chlorine and high diene level in the products and presence of solid residuals was noted. Economic viability of any of the products so obtained has not yet been established. The Scientific Advisory Committee on Hydrocarbon of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, to whom a proposal for establishment of a demonstration plant was referred in November, 2003, did not find the proposal in present shape as suitable for funding.

Adulteration In petroleum product

1431. SHRI SANJAY RAJARAM RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether It Is a fact that there are large scale malpractices such. as adulteration, underweighing etc. being done by the petrol pumps, LPG, Kerosene dealers as well as other dealers of petroleum products In the country; and

(b) If so, what corrective measures have been .taken or are proposed to be taken to curb these malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The possibility of adulteration of Petrol and Diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out owing to the price difference between Petrol/Diesel and other adulterants available in the market like Kerosene, Solvents etc., and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol and Diesel.

(b) Government is committed to supplying clean and unadulterated fuel In correct quantity to customers. In order to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate adulteration, as well as to prevent other malpractices, the following Important steps have been taken:-

- * Government have issued Control Orders under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to prevent the misuse of petroleum products for adulteration of auto fuels, and other malpractices. These Orders provide power of search and seizure to the officers of the State Governments and Oil Marketing Companies.
- * Oil Marketing Companies undertake regular Inspections of Retail