

(c) whether it is also a fact that the ONGC is also considering to buy other public sector Oil Marketing Companies as well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech of 2017-18 on February 1, 2017, Finance Minister had *inter alia* stated that “we see opportunities to strengthen our CPSEs through consolidation, mergers and acquisitions. By these methods, the CPSE can be integrated across the value chain of an industry. It will give them capacity to bear higher risks, avail economies of scale, take higher investment decisions and create more value for the stakeholders. Possibilities of such restructuring are visible in the Oil and Gas sector. We propose to create an integrated public sector ‘Oil Major’ which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies”.

ONGC has forwarded a proposal to acquire HPCL. Process for in-principle approval for this proposal has been initiated.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Recovery of value of gas stolen from KG Basin

†461. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the arbitrator appointed to recover the price of gas stolen from Krishna-Godavari Basin has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the percentage of amount which has been decided to be recovered out of an amount of ₹ 30,000 crores worth value of gas; and

(c) the amount recovered by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Regarding the issue of gas migration from KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML, Government has issued a notice claiming US\$ 1.55 billion towards unjust enrichment on account of extraction of migrated gas by contractor of KG- DWN-98/3. Contractor disputed the notice and initiated arbitration. The arbitration proceedings are underway. The arbitrators have not yet announced the arbitral award. No amount has been recovered so far as matter is under arbitration.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.