

Reduction in import of crude OIL

591. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had resolved to reduce the import of crude oil by 10 per cent by the year 2022;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiative in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has achieved any result in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry is working in collaboration with various Central Government Ministries to achieve a goal to reduce the dependency on import in energy from oil and gas by 10% by 2021-22. The Ministry has prepared a roadmap with a five-pronged strategy which broadly comprises of increasing domestic production of oil and gas, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, giving thrust on demand substitution, capitalizing untapped potential in biofuels and other alternate fuels/renewables and implementing measures for refinery process improvements. An Integrated Monitoring and Advisory Council (IMAC) has also been constituted under the chairmanship of Minister, Petroleum and Natural Gas along with the representatives of other Ministries/Departments as Member of IMAC to oversee effective implementation of the roadmap proposed under the five pronged strategy.

(c) to (f) Government has taken several steps to enhance exploration & production of oil and gas in the country which include *inter alia* Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), Discovered Small Field Policy, gas pricing reforms with premium for difficult areas, grant of marketing freedom for gas produced from difficult areas, National Seismic Programme for unappraised areas, National Data Repository, easing out rigidities in the existing Production Sharing Contracts and transparent and clear policy for grant of extension under the PSC regime. Government has also taken a number of initiatives to encourage the use of alternative fuels such as Ethanol and Bio Diesel and promote the conservation of petroleum products. Some of the important achievements in these areas include *inter alia* award of 30 hydrocarbon bearing contract areas under DSF Policy, launch of bids under OALP for 55 oil and gas blocks, approval of 40%

capital grant under Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga to promote gas based economy, improvement in the supply of ethanol, direct sale of bio-diesel to all consumers for blending with High Speed Diesel, and signing of MoUs for setting up of bio refinery (2G ethanol) plants at five locations.

Establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh

592. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has entered into an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) for establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal was cleared by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for pendency and by when establishment of this plant will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited and Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a barite beneficiation plant in Andhra Pradesh to beneficiate low grade barites to meet the requirement of Barites of ONGC. The Government has conveyed its concurrence for the project to ONGC. As per the pre-feasibility report, the project is scheduled to be completed in 15 months.

Cost incurred on production of petrol/diesel

†593. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that the prices of diesel-petrol would be fixed by the companies on day-to-day basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of diesel and petrol are on incessant rise ever since the decision has been taken whereas the prices of crude oil is much less in the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.