

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is facing any environmental concern due to storage of crude oil in huge quantity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has given 'in principle' approval for creation of two additional Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at two locations namely (i) Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT) and (ii) Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT). As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, 6.5 MMT SPR is estimated to provide about 11.5 days of India's crude oil requirement. Government, under Phase I of SPR programme, has already built up SPR facilities of total 5.33 MMT at three locations namely (i) Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), (ii) Mangaluru (1.5 MMT) and (iii) Padur (2.5 MMT). As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, 5.33 MMT SPR is estimated to provide about 9.5 days of India's crude oil requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer at (c) above.

Leasing out medium and small oil-fields in the country

293. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to lease out medium and small oilfields in the country to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this step will be beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) With a view to increase domestic production of oil and gas, Government in September, 2015 in consultation with ONGC and OIL, approved the Discovered Small Field Policy for monetization of 69 discovered small fields/discoveries of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production. Under the Policy, Government has awarded 30 contract areas for development through International Competitive

Bidding (ICB). Now, the policy has been extended to include un-monetized discoveries/ small fields from PSC regime also along with the nomination regime. Under the Discovered Small Field Policy Round-II, on 9th August, 2018, Government has offered 59 discoveries clubbed under 25 contract areas for bidding. The bid closing date is 18.12.2018. This policy was brought with the objective of bringing unmonetized discoveries and small discoveries/fields to production at the earliest to augment the domestic production of oil and gas.

Auctioning ONGC oil/gas fields to private firms

294. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to sell number of ONGC's small and marginal oil and gas fields to private firms;
- (b) if so, details thereof alongwith total reserves lying in these fields;
- (c) total money likely to be received by Government as a result of sale of these fields;
- (d) time by when these fields are proposed to be auctioned and-steps taken by Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to ask successful bidders to offer/sell maximum share of output to Government, if so, the details thereof and purpose therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Discovered small fields/discoveries of ONGC and OIL have been offered for development through international competitive bidding.

(b) to (d) With a view to increase domestic production of oil and gas, Government in September, 2015 in consultation with ONGC and OIL, approved the Discovered Small Field Policy for monetization of 69 discovered small fields/discoveries of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production. Under the Policy Government has awarded 30 contract areas for development through International Competitive Bidding. The policy has now been extended to its second round in order to include un-monetized discoveries/small fields from PSC regime also along with the nomination regime. Under the Discovered Small Field Policy Round-II, Government has offered 59 fields/discoveries clubbed under 25 contract areas for bidding. Out of 59 discoveries offered, 43 discoveries