

Petrochemicals production hub in Gujarat

1207. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a petrochemicals production hub will be set up in Gujarat under a joint venture, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the designated site has been identified and a feasibility study has been carried out before a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed, if not, by when it will be completed, the details thereof; and

(c) how it is going to benefit the State of Gujarat and the country in particular in respect of chemicals production, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has informed that the Government of India has approved setting up of Petrochemical Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Region (PCPIR) at Dahej, Gujarat. Government of Gujarat has declared Gujarat PCPIR under the provisions of Gujarat Special Investment Regions Act, 2009.

(b) ONGC Petro additions Ltd. (OPaL) has set up a Mega petrochemical complex at Dahej SEZ.

(c) This facilitates domestic and foreign investments, availability of feedstock to downstream industries and multiplier effect in employment.

Exploration of shale reserve

1208. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering changes in the definition of petroleum to let oil and gas exploration firms explore shale reserves in the country;

(b) if so, what methods of the extraction are going to be allowed and which companies, whether public or private would be eligible to undertake exploration; and

(c) what safeguards would be taken to ensure that fresh water does not get wasted in the process of hydraulic fracturing?