

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Ministry closely studies global developments, including in the Middle East, that may impact supply as well as price of hydrocarbons to India. The crude oil and natural gas price fluctuation is a frequent market phenomenon.

The Government has advised Oil PSUs to formulate policy for import of crude oil in their best commercial interest and as per CVC instructions. Government continues to monitor prices of sensitive petroleum products. Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel, in line with international product prices and other market conditions.

Shale exploration programme halt by ONGC

2052. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has wound up its shale exploration programme mid-way after spending five years and hundreds of crores of rupees, concluding that country may not have enough commercially-extractable shale reserve; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) ONGC has drilled 28 assessment wells in Cambay, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery and Assam Basin. The data acquired, so far, is under assessment for potential of shale-gas and shale-oil.

Oil and natural gas fields

2053. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been increase in number of bidders for oil and natural gas blocks since liberalisation of oil exploration under Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) and Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP);

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;