

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of comparative studies undertaken, if any, on the management of similar stocks maintained by some other countries, like the U.S.A., Japan etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) Such studies are being done.

Indo-US cooperation for building oil reserves

232. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India propose to seek US help to build oil reserves to meet contingency requirements like disruption of supplies;

(b) if so, the details of Indo-US cooperation proposed to be explored; and

(c) by when the plan for building the reserves will be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) Presently, US system of maintaining strategic petroleum reserve is being studied. An appropriate plan for building the oil reserves in India will be put in place soon.

LNG storage terminal at Dahej (Gujarat)

†233. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether first Liquefied Natural Gas storage terminal in the country is being established at Dahej (Gujarat);

(b) if so, what is its capacity;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the States which will be directly benefited from it; and

(e) by when it will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The capacity of Dahej LNG terminal is 5 MMTPA.

(c) About Rs.2700 crores will be spent on the construction of Dahej LNG terminal.

(d) Besides the State of Gujarat, the other beneficiary States will be Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.

(e) The Dahej LNG terminal is scheduled for mechanical completion in December, 2003 and the commercial operations are likely to commence in the second quarter of 2004.

New LPG agencies in Karnataka

234. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG Agencies/Petrol pumps operating in Karnataka;

(b) whether the number of those outlets are adequate in proportion to the growing population of the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to setup new LPG agencies/retail outlets in the next few years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) As of 1.4.2003, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) were operating 457 LPG distributorships and 1,158 retail outlets in the State of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) OMCs have neither reported any inadequacy of the number of outlets nor any complaint relating to availability of Motor Sprit (MS)/High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) in the State of Karnataka.