

for all the 347 projects. which I have mentioned before the House is Rs. 1,29,317 crore. Now, can you imagine being a finance man how the Government can provide...

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** Why did you Start?

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** The question of starting is not always Budge support. As raised by the hon. Member, for some projects, money market to be tapped to raise the money...(Interruptions)..... Let me finish.

In certain areas the Department has to maintain its resource. They have to do it. In case of Vizag Steel Plant we were supposed to mobilize money. We could not. Then we went to the finance Minister. they got changed in our favour because they are convinced that it can be a viable project. You are right in saying overspreading is not reasonable and sometimes overambitious. This is why, this group of Ministers is looking into it.

[Translation]

**SHRI SURAJ MANDAL:** With regard to coal, iron and other minerals, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. is functioning under Coal India Ltd., a Public Undertaking. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. has been earning a profit of Rs. 100 crores two years ago. How, then, was it referred to BIFR this year all of a sudden? What are the reasons behind it? Has the Government monitored the situation in this regard? Is the Government concerned about the fact that how come this company incur losses the other year whereas previously it earned a profit of Rs. 100 crores every year? I would like to know whether this committee has taken some corrective measures in this regard?

[English]

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** Bharat Coking Coal's sickness is because buyers are not willing to pay the higher cost. That is why this has run into trouble.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister stated that this Ministry was constituted by late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Through you, I would like to remind him that in 1987, th then Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of a bridge on river Chambal. I have thrice raised this issue in Lok Sabha under Rule 377 and through other discussions and have apprised the hon. Prime Minister of the fact that this project has not been completed so far. I would like

to know from the hon. Minister the time by which it will be completed.

[English]

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** I will not be able to reply to that question.

#### **Cut in Import of Petroleum Productss**

\* 46.+ **SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:**  
**SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the additional outgo on import of petroleum products due to fall in value of rupee during recent months in the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government propose to cut down import of petroleum products so as to keep the import bill of these products at manageable level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the Government propose to mobilise additional funds?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA):** (a) While due to recent variations in exchange rate of rupee in relations to US dollar, the import bill has increased in terms of the Indian Rupee for the quantities contracted so far, the exact increase in the import bill for 1995-96 will depend upon the quantities to be imported and the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market for the remaining period of the year 1995-96.

(b) to (d). A view could be taken only when precise impact of this variation is known for the year 1995-96.

**SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:** The oil import bill every year has been increasing. In 1993-94 despite a drop in the crude oil import, the total bill was of Rs. 17,730 crore. In the year 1995-96 it has gone up to Rs. 19,136 crore. In view of this we are losing a lot of foreign exchange. There are a number of refineries in the country whose production capacity is 53.4 million metric tonnes. Now the demand is 100 million metric tonnes. In view of this, to reduce the import bill and for getting higher production in the domestic sector for exploration, drilling, etc. may I know from the hon. Minister what special measures, particularly in the Godavari Basin and the Bombay Basin, have been taken?

**CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA:** As I mentioned earlier, on the one hand as Members are aware, our crude production has gone up. It went up from 26.9 million tonnes three years ago to a projected level of 36 million tonnes this year. The hon. Member has mentioned the refinery issue. It was 53 million tonnes through put. But the hon. Member will be glad, it is in excess of 56 million tonnes this year. But even there our graph is going up. Our refinery capacity is increasing. As the hon. Member is aware, the country does not have adequate refinery capacity. So the import of products is more. Not only that, because of the various joint venture agreements already signed between Oman and India and IOC and Kuwait two refineries are coming up. Recently Saudi-ARAMACO has come and signed an MOU with the IOC. So, we are looking at the refinery capacity of around 160 million tonnes because of the LOI already issued. The major ones where they are signed and the work is starting on the ground is in the public sector companies as joint ventures.

Even on the refining side, the situation is very healthy and we are not only meeting the target, without even including the investment in the refining sector from the private sector. I am talking only about the joint venture where MOUS have been signed. Also, importantly and unfortunately, for India, because India is a major importer, the international market for crude has remained soft for some time and my assessment is that the international crude market will remain soft in the medium-term. Not only that, if the UN lifts the partial embargo on Iraq-Iraq is a major producer as Members are aware-the Iraqi oil will also start flowing in and that will, in fact, depress the international crude market even further and because of these conditions, we are very unfortunate that in spite of petroleum consumption reaching record levels because of the good status of our vibrant economy, we are still in a situation where I do not see any reason for allowing that.

**SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:** My second supplementary is this. In view of the demand of the high petroleum products, particularly diesel oil, kerosene and other petroleum products, keeping in view the fact that the Government is very particular about the liberalization programme, keeping in view the exploration in the hydrocarbon sector under the National Seismic Programme, I would like to know how much our Government has invested in the National Seismic Programme and if any multinational company has come forward to invest in that Programme. I would also like to know whether any discussion has taken place with the multinational companies about the national Seismic Programme.

**CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA:** Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very good question. The key issue facing the country is reserve accretion. Our production is at the highest level this year at around 37 MMT and going to be even higher

in the coming years - it is projected to reach a level of 44 million tonnes from this year's 37 million tonnes - the challenge before the country is reserve accretion. That means, India must have its equity in oil both in India and abroad. That means, India must have equity global oil.

To give you an idea, France does not produce any oil within France. Its total oil, it has found, globally, through two oil companies. Their companies, Elf and Total have got this everywhere. Besides the nuclear power that they generate, which is 70 per cent, they also generate 30 per cent of oil production. Their oil consumption is more than ours, but all of that is what their companies have found globally. My strategy is the same for India. We cannot take a chance. If we are going to find another Bombay High or two Bombay Highs, good. I am hopeful we will, but India cannot take a chance. My strategy is, 'India's equity in the global oil'. India should look for oil not only within India and we have already initiated steps. We have signed a contract with British Gas. We will be looking for oil in the fields of Egypt. We have signed a contract with British Gas, again, for Yemen. We have signed a contract for Tunisia. We have started work in Vietnam. The Members will be glad to know that we have found a mega field there. India, which started work in Vietnam, is sitting on a mega gas field there. Our exploration work has already started through our APX Programme, an accelerated exploration programme, which our national companies are doing. Besides that, we have invited foreign companies to come and join with our national companies. But, in addition to that, as I mentioned, for reserve accretion, we are going global.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:** Sir, it is an impossible answer that he has given, to which I will just draw your attention. The part (a) of the question is very specific:

'The additional out go on import of petroleum products due to fall in value of rupee during recent months in the current financial year.'

He has refused to answer that question. His answer is, anything might happen, we do not have the figure for the financial year.

He has to answer this question: what is the additional out go on import of petroleum products due to fall in value of the rupee during the recent months of the current financial year? What is the upto date figure? He has not answered it.

**CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA:** Sir, the hon. Member is aware that a few weeks back the value of a dollar was Rs. 39. Now, it has stabilised to Rs. 36. I have figures with me. As it stands today, the impact due to exchange variation on imports

is going to be Rs. 1800 crore and variation on short-term loans for imports is going to be Rs. 600 crore. The hon. Member is asking me a question which relates to the financial implication. I will request my hon. colleague Shri Debi Prosad Pal to answer your specific query.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has very wisely informed the House that the import Bill will depend upon the level of indigenous production. My simple question is this. He is doing the best he can for oil exploration. I would like to know what is the evaluation at the moment about the quantum of our crude reserves and life of crude reserves keeping in view our present level of Production.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

##### Investment in Coal Sector

41. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked and the investment made for coal sector during the current Plan period, so far;

(b) the amount borne by the Union Government and the amount of external assistance made available for investment in coal sector during the above period;

(c) the target and achievement in the production of coal during the above Plan period, so far; and

(d) the policy followed for distribution and sale of coal for domestic consumption as well as for industrial sector including power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The outlay approved for the 8th Five Year Plan for the coal and lignite sector (excluding power) is Rs. 11, 357 crores, against which actual expenditure in the first three years of the plan (1992-93 to 1994-95) was Rs. 6808.40 crores.

(b) During the first three years of the 8th Plan, a net budgetary support of Rs. 704.24 crores and external funding of Rs. 889.5 crores routed through the budget was made available for the coal and lignite sector. For 1995-96, these provisions are, respectively, Rs. 358.93 crores and Rs. 101.57 crores.

(c) The year-wise targets and actual production of coal so

far during the 8th Five Year Plan period are given below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	Target	Actual
1992-93	238.20	238.11
1993-94	245.00	248.04
1994-95	253.60	253.70
1995-96	274.50	Not yet available

(d) Coal supplies to industrial consumers are arranged by coal companies based on programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with the sponsorship issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Supplies to power and cement sectors are based on short-term linkage established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) to these sectors. Soft coke supplies for domestic consumption are arranged by the coal companies in accordance with the allocations made by the Government.

##### Adoption of Indian Children

44. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have bilateral agreements with other countries for regulation of inter-country adoption of Indian children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) There is no proposal at present for having bi-lateral agreement with other countries for regulation of inter-country adoption of Indian children.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

##### Demand of Naphtha and NGL

47. SHRI TARA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM