

question that Rajan Pillai a youngman had undertaken research on preparing oil from herbal leaves in Tamil Nadu. He had also approached the Government later on and the Government had conducted some inquiry in this regard. I would like to know the position of that research as on today whether it was found true and if so, whether the Government have taken any steps in regard to make use of the experience of the said young man?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is its relevance.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : He had conducted research on certain vegetable leaves and produced petrol oil. So I want to know in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Minister wants to reply, he may do so.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. lady Member has just posed a question whatever is proved scientifically, that will be taken into account, since Shri Raman Pillai's finding is not as per scientific standards, we are not taking it into account.

Petroleum Projects

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*384. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several schemes/projects of petroleum sector received from various State Governments are pending with the Union Government during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date on which the proposal for each of these projects was received;

(d) the reasons for delay in clearing these projects/proposals; and

(e) the steps being taken for expeditious clearance of these projects/proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 80 lacs vehicles are running by making use of Power Alcohol and pollution is also not caused from it. Petroleum lab, Dehradun has been doing research on it successfully in our country since 1980 and this test has been successful in power Alcohol plant in Ratlam.

I would like to know from the Minister, through you, whether any scheme is under consideration of the Government for running vehicles by using Power Alcohol and starting production of Power Alcohol in the country? If so, the time by which the Government of India would implement it?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the main question is : Whether several schemes/projects of the petroleum sector received from various State Governments are pending with the Union Government. The hon. Member's question does not arise out of the main question.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : It is all right. I would ask the question in regard to my question. Although the Minister has replied in negative to my question. But as far as I know, the schemes of various States regarding the production of petroleum products proposed by I.O.C. and B.B.C. have been pending with the Union Government. If so, the names of the States whose schemes have been pending with the Union Government and since when?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the hon. Member should put a pertinent question concerning the main question. His question is a general one. I cannot answer his question.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : The reply to my question has not come...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You cannot ask more than two supplementary questions.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Hon. Minister has been avoiding the reply to my each question by saying it irrelevant...*(Interruptions)* My original question was that various State Governments have sent many schemes and projects regarding petroleum products to the Union Government during the last two years, which have been pending with the Union Government. I would like to know their position as on today. The Minister is also not replying to that. I am asking about the schemes because petroleum comes under Union Government, State Governments implement these schemes in these States...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the petroleum sector's projects are controlled by the Central Government and they are being cleared by the Central Government. Whatever projects are there concerning the petroleum sector, those will be implemented by the Central Government through the PSUs. The State Government has got no say in it at all.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Amar Palji, please take your seat now the discussion has gone ahead.

[English]

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister in his answer has said that there are no pending projects and schemes in the petroleum sector from the State Government. Even if we have to believe that, recently there has been some scarcity of petroleum and there is every probability that petroleum prices in the market will be hiked. Keeping that in view, does the Government have any short term or long term oil or petroleum exploration policy so that this fear of price hike of petroleum is removed from the market?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, of course, the question is not pertaining to the main question, but in the interest of this august House...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Sir, my question is concerning the petroleum price hike...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the question pertains to the State Government projects. The question is, whether the State Government projects are pending with the Central Government. But in the interest of this august House...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to know that...(Interruptions)

SHRI OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these questions are of national importance. Why these are being kept pending?...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is, whether several schemes/projects of the petroleum sector received from the various State Governments are pending with the Union Government...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to know about the schemes received from the State Governments...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has not been replying correctly. If he does not understand the question properly, it should be amended accordingly...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if no scheme of the State Government is pending, whether the State Government have been asked to take alternatives so that this price-hike may not happen, is it pertaining to the State Government...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, the Government has got certain action plan to improve the crude output. If the hon. Member is interested to hear me, I can go ahead. Otherwise...(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH BHARDWAJ : Sir, he is willing to give the reply and I am also willing to listen to him. Petroleum price hike is a major issue.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, it is everybody's concern. It is not only the concern of the hon. Member, it is the concern of the entire India. That is why we are planning to have some action plan. We have got six new schemes at a cost of Rs. 2,000 crore to develop the existing fields. These are : Development of B-119/121 structure; development of B-55 structure; development of B-173A structure; and the development of Heera Phase-III. These are all on the Western Offshore and amount to Rs. 1,600 crore. The other two schemes are : Application of Insitu Combustion Technology at Balol and at Santhal Phase-II in the Western sector which amount to Rs. 400 crore. We encourage private sector participation for the exploration of oil and gas and for development of discovered fields. The yield of crude oil from the private sector is 1.5 metric tonnes. We are planning to have better long term reservoir management of Mumbai High. We are obtaining the services of international experts. Their services have been hired to review the performance of well reservoir and drilling, and for a better understanding of the fields. Periodic seismic surveys are being conducted. We have got some accelerated exploration programme which would be inducted in frontier areas. A national seismic survey will also be conducted.

We use advanced technology to increase production from the existing fields, taking up enhanced oil recovery from the projects and acquisition of foreign acreage also.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the Cochin Refinery has submitted two or three plans for the development of the Cochin Refinery and also for the production of power petrol. The Hindustan Organic Chemicals have also submitted certain plans for the production of Benzene. Kerala is now experiencing intermittent troubles regarding the supply of LPG. The Cochin Refinery and the Indian Oil Corporation have submitted plans for LPG also. I would like to know from the Minister whether the plans or proposals submitted by the Cochin Refinery for the production of electricity and for the enhancement of production of LPG as well as the proposal of HOC have been accepted. If there is any delay in that! Could he kindly expedite it?

SHRI T.R. BAALU : As far as the Cochin Refinery power project is concerned, I only advised the hon. Member who comes from the State that I was always interested to go for an MOU for the project. It is under consideration...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir please allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already asked your question.

11.26 hrs.

At this stage Shri Amar Pal Singh left the House.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : My question has not been answered. What are the steps taken for enhancement of LPG? LPG is in trouble, Sir.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the main question pertains to the State Government projects which have been sent to the Central Government for approval. Hon. Shri Jos is asking about joint venture or private sector projects. I cannot answer it.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I want to know from the Minister that the refinery, which is going to be set-up in Western India jointly by HPCL and Oman Oil Company, I want to know the name of the place wherein it is going to be set up and its present status thereof.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Regarding HPCL and Oman Oil Company, he wants to have a clarification regarding the refinery. Sir, the matter of refineries is under consideration. After considering this, it will be put up... (Interruptions)

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, kindly allow me.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is decision of the House that there will not be more than five supplementaries.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, the Assam Gas Cracker Project has been pending for several years and the project is neglected by the Government. In this House also, Assam has been neglected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Gentleman, five supplementaries have been asked. This is the rule made by the House. I cannot go beyond that.

Plan Investment

*385. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of defaulting States which have not achieved the targeted Plan investment for 1995-96;

(b) the main reasons for not utilising the plan investment, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the major defaulting States in 1995-96; and

(d) the extent to which their plan outlay has been reduced for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Under the existing guidelines of the Planning Commission, the Central assistance is given to the States to the full extent if the total plan outlay of the States does not fall below the originally approved/ revised approved outlay and the expenditure for earmarked sectors/schemes does not fall below the approved outlays for the same. In case of special category States, they are allowed to use upto 20% of plan assistance to meet their non plan gap and cuts in Central assistance are applied keeping the above in consideration. The actual expenditure figures for Annual Plan 1995-96 for the States are not yet available. Planning Commission had approved revised Plan outlays which were lower than the originally approved outlays in the case of 16 States whose list is at Annexure-I. Since the revised Plan outlays for the States were approved, there is no question of imposing any cut in Central assistance in respect of these States and this question will arise if the total expenditure turns out to be lower than revised approved outlay or the actual expenditure for earmarked sector/schemes falls below the approved outlays for them. The main reason for revised outlays of these States being lower than the originally approved outlays is the shortfall in achieving the projected figures of States own resources. The plan outlays for all the States in 1996-97 have been fixed at a higher level as compared to the revised outlays for 1995-96 even though the outlay for 1996-97 is lower in respect of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh as compared to originally approved outlays for these States for 1995-96. The details for these two States are given at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE-I

List of the States

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| 1. | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. | Assam |
| 4. | Bihar |
| 5. | Goa |