

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1990
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2000
REQUEST OF USA TO OPEC TO CUT OIL PRICES
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

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

- (a) whether the Government have taken up the question of continued rise in oil prices with the oil producing countries to bring down the prices at the reasonable level;
- (b) if so, whether OPEC members have considered the request of the Indian Government;
- (c) whether USA has also urged the OPEC countries to cut oil prices and increase the oil output; and
- (d) if so, the decision of the OPEC countries in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d): In the months of March and September, 2000, India had made a request to the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members to increase production level of crude oil which would facilitate bringing down the oil prices to sustainable, stable level. During the World Petroleum Congress held in Calgary, Canada, the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas held a bilateral meeting on this subject with the Secretary General of OPEC. The issue was again taken up by the oil consuming countries including India and USA at the 7th World Energy Forum held at Riyadh from November 17-19, 2000. Various oil importing countries including USA, pressed the urgent need for taking immediate steps to bring down the prices of crude oil. Further, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, in his bilateral discussion with the oil Ministers of OPEC member countries, took up the issue. While appreciating the difficulties faced by the oil importing countries, they agreed to consider the matter at the level of OPEC.