

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4574

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000

OIL IMPORT BILL

AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA;GADDE RAMAMOHAN;GORDHANBHAI JAVIA;RAMESH CHAND TOMAR;RUDRAGOUDA PATIL;SANAT KUMAR MANDAL;SHIVAJI MANE;SHYAMA SINGH;SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL

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

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'India could save up to \$ 2.5 billion, oil price fall' appearing in the Indian Express dated March 30, 2000.
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to;
- (c) whether due to increase in production of oil by OPEC, the Government propose to decrease the prices of petroleum products;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the extent to which our oil import bill is likely to be affected; and
- (f) the likely impact on our public sector oil companies in view of the decision of OPEC?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

( SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) OPEC members excluding Iran in their meeting held on 27.3.2000 agreed to increase the production of crude oil by 1.45 million barrels per day which may result in fall in prices. OPEC have also decided to review their decision in June, 2000. Prices of oil in the international market are highly volatile and are subject to wide fluctuation. The Oil prices trend in the international market has an impact on our import bill and the domestic prices. There is no proposal to roll back the increase in prices effected in the midnight of 22nd - 23rd March, 2000.