

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4860
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2002
VISIT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND THE AGREEMENTS SIGNED
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

(a) the number of countries visited by him during the last two years alongwith the details of the agreements reached during his visits; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred on those foreign visits and the benefits accrued to the country from those visits?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : During the last two financial years i.e., 2000-01 and 2001-02, the Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas visited 12 (twelve) countries, namely, UK, USA, Canada, Mauritius, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Singapore, France, Russia, Brazil and China in connection with promoting investment in Petroleum Sector, presentation of New Exploration Licensing Policy, attending Conferences in Hydrocarbon Sector, etc. No agreement was signed with any country during these visits. However, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Government of Mauritius for entry of Indian Oil Corporation Limited as an independent company in the petroleum sector in Mauritius and another MoU signed with Government of Brazil for technical know-how relating to blending of Ethanol with Petrol. An expenditure of Rs. 21,99,638/- was incurred on the above foreign visits of Minister (P&NG).