

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:77
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
INCREASE IN IMPORT OF CRUDE OIL
A. KRISHNASWAMY

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

- (a) whether Import of crude oil is likely to go up from the present level of 55 percent to 65-70 percent by the end of the Ninth Plan period ;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; (
- (c) whether country's oil reserves are stagnating at around 730 million tonnes;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to deal with this situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 77
27.7.2000 REGARDING INCREASE IN IMPORT OF CRUDE OIL

(a) & (b): As per present estimate, oil import is expected to increase from about 69% during to 1999-2000 to over 70% during 2001-2002. This is due to production of indigenous crude oil not keeping pace with the increase in demand of petroleum products in the country.

(c) to (e): As on 1.4.1999 the balance recoverable reserves of crude oil were approximately 590 million metric tonnes.

Steps taken by the Government to enhance exploration efforts and increase hydrocarbon reserves include:-

- (i) Announcement of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) in order to boost exploration activities in the country. The policy provides for fiscal and contractual concessions and provides level playing fields for both private investors and national oil companies.
- (ii) Encouraging the participation of private/joint venture companies in exploration and development activities.
- (iii) Improvement in the recovery factor in the producing basin.
- (iv) Enhancing exploration efforts in the existing basins and its extension unexplored areas including deep waters of east and west coast.
- (v) Encouraging the exploration and exploitation of alternate hydrocarbon resources like Coal Bed Methane and gas hydrates.