

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3067
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2000
EXPLORATION OF CRUDE OIL
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL);HARIBHAU MAHALE

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

- (a) whether the exploration of crude oil has suffered a set back following the Government's policy of liberalisation and globalisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the quantity of crude oil being imported every year; and
- (d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the import of crude oil?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Crude oil imports during last 3 years are as under:

| Year | Crude oil Imports (MMT) |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 1997-98 | 34.49 |
| 1998-99 | 39.81 |
| 1999-2000+ | 44.99 |

MMT: Million Metric Tonne

+ Provisional

(d): Government is taking following steps to increase the indigenous production of crude oil which would help to reduce imports:

(ii) Optimizing production from existing field through better reservoir management and use of advanced and cost effective technologies.

(iii) Faster development of new discoveries.

(iv) Finding new hydrocarbon reserves through intensified exploration activities such as :

+ Exploration at greater depths in existing fields. + Extending exploration activities to deep waters and frontier areas. + Increased private participation in exploration activities through various rounds of bidding for exploration blocks and New Exploration Licensing Policy under which 22 Production Sharing Contracts were signed on 12th April, 2000.