

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Quantity of crude oil imported during the last two years and foreign exchange spent thereon is as under :-

Year	Quantity in MMT (Provisional)	Foreign exchange spent (Provisional) (\$ Million)
1995-96	27.342	3345.3
1996-97	33.906	5135.0 (Provisional)

The increase in crude oil imports over the previous years was mainly due to increase in crude oil processing and lower indigenous crude oil production.

The crude oil processing increased due to increase in refining capacity and higher capacity utilization.

(e) and (f) The crude oil production during the last 3 years was as under :-

1994-95	32.24 MMT
1995-96	35.147 MMT
1996-97	32.88 MMT

The production declined in the year 1996-97 due to unexpected reservoir behaviour of the Bombay High & Neelam oil fields, unfavourable operational conditions in the North-Eastern region and shortage of power in the Eastern and Western regions.

(g) Steps taken by the Government to increase production are :-

- Implementation of new developmental schemes of oil and additional development of the existing fields.
- Announcing of a New Exploration Licensing Policy to encourage investment in exploration of hydrocarbons.
- Encouraging the participation of private/Joint Venture Companies in oil/gas exploration and development.
- Intensification of exploration efforts in the proven basins as well as in the new areas and its expansion to the deep water and frontier areas.
- Adoption of specialised technology to improve the recovery factors like horizontal and drain hole drilling, long drift side track of well, stimulation of wells etc.
- 3-D seismic surveys for better understanding of the reservoirs.

[Translation]

Loss Suffered in Gujarat Due to Flood

1968. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fury of flood in various parts of the country is on the increase;

(b) if so, the loss occurred this year in various States particularly in Gujarat;

(c) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps for compensating the loss in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) There is no indication of increasing trend in the fury of floods in various parts of the country. Flood being a natural phenomenon, its intensity varies from year to year.

(b) Floods/heavy rains/land slides caused due to South West monsoon of 1997 claimed 624 human lives, damaged 2.34 lakhs of houses and crops in an area of 9.83 lakh hectares in 10 affected States of the country including Gujarat. In Gujarat, 193 lives were lost, 1.02 lakhs houses damaged and crops in an area of 1.98 lakh hectares were affected.

(c) to (e) Gujarat has been allocated Rs. 147.31 crores in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1997-98 consisting of Rs. 110.48 crore as Central Share. Three instalments of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 82.86 crore have been released to the State Government. A Central Team constituted by Ministry of Agriculture visited the flood affected areas in the State from 22-26 July, 1997 to assess the situation.

Ten Point Programme

1969. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of points out of the ten point programme announced by the Union Government for the Taj protected area which have been implemented and the time by which remaining points are likely to be implemented; and

(b) the time by which the supply of natural gas is likely to commence to the oil refinery at Agra and Mathura respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Five points namely; supply of LPG for households, supply of unleaded/low lead petrol, preferential