

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:148

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004

STEALING OF OIL FROM PIPELINES

Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra; Modi Shri Sushil Kumar

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

(a) whether oil is being stolen in large quantum from the oil pipeline connecting Barauni Oil Refinery Plant of Bihar with oil wells of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government alongwith the number of persons arrested in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 148 TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.07.04 REGARDING STEALING OF OIL FROM PIPELINES.

(a) & (b): Crude oil produced in Assam is not being supplied to Barauni Refinery of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). Imported crude oil is supplied to Barauni Refinery from Haldia Port through Haldia-Barauni Crude Pipeline (HBCPL) owned and operated by IOCL. IOCL has informed that there has been no incident of theft/pilferage of crude oil in its Haldia-Barauni crude oil pipeline during the last three years. Crude oil produced in Assam is supplied to refineries located in the North Eastern States through the pipeline network of Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and to some extent by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC). Both OIL and ONGC have informed that there have been some incidents of theft/pilferage of crude oil from their pipeline networks. During the last three years, i.e., from April 2001 to March 2004, Oil India Limited has reported 30 cases of theft/pilferage of crude oil from pipelines. ONGC has reported 16 such cases during the same period.

(c): A number of measures have been taken to reduce, minimize and eventually eliminate such theft/pilferage. These measures, inter alia, include close coordination between the oil companies, the Central and State Governments and the law enforcement agencies, and also involve deployment of Village Defence Parties, periodical surveillance by helicopters, joint patrolling exercises, deployment of dog squads, mobilization of public support, etc. The Government have also put in place an institutional mechanism by way of the Onshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) for the State of Assam to monitor the position periodically. OIL and ONGC have reported that 77 arrests were made in this connection during the last three years.