

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3484
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2009
ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Kochi Refinery has developed an environment protection technology for removing toxic hydrogen sulphide gas produced when crude oil is heated to high temperature; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to promote and market this technology?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) and (b): Vacuum Distillation is employed in Petroleum Refineries along with Atmospheric Distillation to recover the valuable hydrocarbon cuts like Vacuum Diesel and Vacuum Gas Oil from crude oil. During the process, low molecular weight gas containing considerable amount of Hydrogen Sulphide Gas (H₂S) (as high as 25% - depending upon the Sulphur content of the crude process) is generated from vacuum distillation column. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Kochi Refinery has developed an in house Technology which helps in reducing environment pollution, through absorption of this toxic Hydrogen Sulphide gas and converting into solid sulphur. While the BPCL has taken up the development of a robust model for marketing this technology, it has filed an application for 'Patent' before the Controller of Patents and Design, Government of India, Chennai.