

**Madras Refineries Limited**

903. SHRI M. SELVARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced adequate funds for the Madras Refineries Limited in the Cauvery Basin;

(b) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region;

(c) the details of amount spent in Cauvery basin *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region; and

(d) the details of progress made in the production of crude oil in Cauvery basin *vis-a-vis* Kothavari Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Cauvery Basin Refinery of MRL with a Capacity of 0.5 MMTPA at Panangudi was Commissioned in November, 1996 at a cost of Rs. 196 crores. The company utilised internal resources and OIDB Loans/ Financial Institutions for funding the Project cost.

(c) The amount spent in Cauvery and Krishna Godavari Project by ONGC during the last 3 years are given as under:—

	Rs. Crores		
	Cauvery Project	Krishna Godavari Project	Total
Survey expenditure			
1995-96			37.20
1996-97			29.35
1997-98			40.23
Exploratory & Development Drilling and Fixed Assets.			
1995-96	127.57	250.88	378.45
1996-97	94.04	224.44	318.48
1997-98	102.30	216.90	319.20

In addition private/JV companies have spent the following amount upto March, 1998 on exploration and production in Cauvery and KG Basin:—

(Million US dollars)

	Exp.	Dev.	Total
Cauvery Basin	9.005	70.743	79.748
Krishna Godavari	43.516	210.188	253.704

(d) Details of progress made in the Production of crude oil in Cauvery Basin *vis-a-vis* Krishna-Godavari Basin by ONGC during the year 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 (Apr '98—Jan '99) are as under:—

*Crude Oil Production (MMT)*

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99*
Cauvery Basin	0.3306	0.3242	0.3064
Krishna Godavari Basin	0.0511	0.0664	0.0698

\* (Apr '98—Jan. '99)

The average rate of production of crude oil during the Month of January, 1999 by Private/JV Companies is as follows:—

Cauvery Offshore basin (PY-3): 1000 tonnes per day

Krishna Godavari offshore Basin (Ravva): 8630 tonnes per day.

**Introduction of Cellular Telephone Services by MTNL**

904. SHRI A. GENESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MTNL has introduced cellular telephone services in Delhi and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objectives behind the same;

(c) whether there is any price war between Bharti and Sterling in Delhi and BPL and Max in Mumbai and the MTNL;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of four conditions contained in the Memorandum of Understanding of the four companies; and

(f) the time by which a settlement is likely to be expected out of court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since cellular telephone service in Delhi and Mumbai has not been introduced by MTNL the question of price war does not arise.

(e) There were eight conditions proposed with MOD by the private operators and not four conditions as indicated in the question. The eight conditions are as follows:—

1. The Metro Operators shall withdraw the following Petitions pending before the Delhi High Court/Telecom Regulatory Authority of India:—

(a) Civil Writ Petition no. 3964 of 1998 in the matter of Cellular Operators Association of India and others Vs. Union of India and another.

(b) Civil Writ Petition no. 4666 of 1998 in the matter of BPL Vs. Union of India and another. It is agreed that the petitions referred above shall be withdrawn within seven days with the right reserved to the parties, to revive their cause or defences in case the terms provided herein are not implemented by 30 April, 1999. These withdrawals shall be subject to the approvals, permissions and orders of the Hon'ble High Court.

2. Although the present licence agreements of the Metro Operators envisage only two cellular service providers per Metro, it is agreed that the Metro Operators shall not object to the entry of MTNL as the 3rd cellular service provider. Consequent to this agreement of the Metro Operators, it is agreed that introduction of any additional service provider(s) in Delhi and Mumbai shall be subject to the recommendations of the TRAI as to the need and timing of additional service provider(s).

3. There shall be level playing field between MTNL and the Metro operators in all the terms and conditions of the licence including the licence tenure and in all aspects to *inter alia*, ensure rapid market expansion and reduced costs to customers through modified licence fee requirements, so that no operators, public or private, is disadvantaged in any respect.

4. Government shall take appropriate steps to ensure level playing field condition between all service providers.

5. The role of the TRAI shall be adequately strengthened to enable the Authority to serve as an independent Regulator and to ensure speedy and effective resolution of all disputes between service providers. Appropriate amendments in the pleadings before the High Court, statutory amendments, if any needed, shall be carried out immediately.

6. Parties also agreed that the appeals pending before the Hon'ble High Court will also stand disposed of in the light of the present MOU. The judgement of Hon'ble Ms. Justice Usha Mehra dated July 16, 1998 passed in first Appeal no. 89,93,94 and other batch cases of 1998 will also be set aside and all orders passed following the said Judgement shall be treated as set aside by consent of all parties.

7. This agreement shall not in any manner restrict the Group on Telecommunications constituted by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Government from formulating and adopting a revised New Telecom Policy.

8. All procedural and other substantive actions shall be ensured to be duly taken by the concerned persons for proper implementation of all the terms hereof including by way of executing required agreement/amending agreement etc.

(f) No time limit can be given since MTNL was not agreeable to the terms of the MOU.

[Translation]

#### Biological Tests on Ganga Water

905. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH:  
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the continuous increase in the level of pollution of the river Ganges and failure of all