

Cyclone affected Petroleum Industries

4971. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Oil, Reliance Petroleum, Essar Petroleum industries were affected by cyclone in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered by each company;

(c) whether any Central aid has been granted to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be resumed its commercial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) All the terminals of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., viz., Main Terminal, Force-shore Terminal, KBPL Terminal and LPG Terminal, were affected by the cyclone in Gujarat.

No information is available on Reliance Petroleum Ltd. and Essar Oil Ltd. which are private sector companies.

(b) It has been tentatively assessed that the loss suffered by the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. is of the order of Rs. 15 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Product receipts at Kandla by shifts resumed on 18.6.1998. Tank truck loading from Kandla terminals resumed on 11.6.1998. Tank wagon loading at Kandla resumed on 24.6.1998. Product pumping into Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline resumed on 22.6.1998.

Import receipts and regular tank wagon/tank truck loading operations are likely to be started by mid-August, 1998.

Freedom Fighter Pension

4972. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fraud cases has been noticed for freedom fighter's pension, if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by the Government to check such false cases;

(c) whether freedom fighter's pension scheme is open even now for the freedom fighters who have not applied earlier;

(d) if so, whether such scheme is still being implemented; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. On the basis of complaints and inquiries several instances have come to light where pension was got sanctioned by the applications on the basis of misrepresentation, or concealment of material information, or on the basis of false/forged documents. Pension has been suspended in all such cases, and finally cancelled if found necessary, after considering the replies. Process of recovery, in cases where pension was cancelled, has been initiated through the State Governments. In appropriate cases prosecution has been launched against the involved persons. Scrutiny of claims for pension has been made more stringent with a view to ensure that no person, who is not entitled to pension, is sanctioned pension. A State-wise list of cases wherein pension was suspended and cancelled so far is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) As per judgement of the Supreme Court of India in Mukund Lal Bhandari Vs. Union of India no last date can be prescribed for receipt of applications under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme. As the Samman Pension Scheme is not closed, the Government is still receiving applications for pension duly verified and recommended by the respective State Government/U.T. Administrations which are decided expeditiously.