

Ban on Use of Naptha

451. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of NAPHTHA is banned and even the small quantities of 12 kls. per month is not being released to small scale units by the oil corporation from its refineries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the oil corporations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon naphtha, becoming a decontrolled product with effect from 1.4.1998, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stopped approving linkages of naphtha except for power generation. Government has not imposed any ban on use or supply of naphtha. However, in order to prevent diversion of this product for adulteration, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued guidelines for allocation of naphtha by oil companies to consumers in different sectors which are as follows:

The Oil Company itself will make the allocation and supply naphtha. In respect of small scale units, having requirement of less than 50000 MT per annum, based on the recommendation of Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), supply of naphtha should be committed initially for a period of one year and the concerned oil company should visit the plant and record a clear certificate that naphtha is being used for the purpose for which it has been allocated/supplied. On establishment of utilizing naphtha for manufacture of end products of standard specifications and selling the products to the genuine customers, supply can be made on annual basis for 3 years after verification of proper utilization every year by the concerned oil company and, if necessary, by the TEC, regular allocation of naphtha can be made after 3 years of satisfactory performance by the unit.

LNG Projects

452. SHRI T. R. BALLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are monitoring various LNG projects being implemented by the Petronet LNG Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time bound programme for completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Petronet LNG proposes to establish a 5 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) LNG Project at Dahej in Gujarat and a 2.5 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) project at Cochin in Kerala. It has completed certain pre-project activities and obtained Letter of Intent in respect of land at Dahej and Cochin. The Company is in the process of selecting Engineering Procurement Construction Contractors (EPCC) for both the projects. Thereafter, it is estimated that construction of projects might take 36 to 42 months approximately. The company expects to complete the financial closure by mid-1999.

Petronet LNG in association of Petronas of Malaysia has also bid against a tender floated by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) for establishing an LNG Terminal at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. The decision of TIDCO awaited.

[Translation]

Review on Public Distribution System

453. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Public Distribution System in rural/remote areas of the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government conducted mid-term review on Public Distribution System during the Eighth-Five-Year Plan;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the target fixed for the plan period has been achieved;

(e) the steps taken to achieve the target by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) In order to strengthen the Public Distribution System in rural/remote areas of the country Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/Union Territories for construction of godowns for storage of PDS commodities and for purchase of trucks/vans for use as mobile fair price shops as well as for carrying PDS commodities to Fair Price Shops for effective and efficient door delivery.