

Plying of Tank Trucks of Oil Companies

1808. SHRI PITAMBER PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tank Trucks of the oil companies as on December 31, 1998 plying on the roads for bulk LPG transportation, company-wise and zone-wise, separately;

(b) the present requirements of the each oil company of the Tank Trucks, zone-wise and company-wise;

(c) whether the oil companies have engaged Tank Trucks beyond their requirements;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the oil companies are providing adequate preference to SC/ST while engaging their Tank Trucks under the reservation quota, company-wise;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The number of tank/trucks of the oil companies as on 31.12.98 plying on roads for bulk LPG transportation as per their requirement company-wise and zone-wise, are as under:—

| Company | Northern/Western Regions | Eastern/Southern Regions |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| IOC | 2388 | 1833 |
| BPCL | 1592 | 253 |
| HPCL | 1226 | 546 |

(c) No, Sir. The tank trucks contracted are as per the requirement.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) to (g) Out of the total tank truck requirement, reservation of 15% and 7.5% is made for SC/ST

transporters subject to availability in the tendering process. Only after exhausting the tank trucks made available by SC/ST transporters against reservation the balance requirement of reserved quota is met through general category.

Manufacture Cost of Petroleum Products

1809. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturing process for Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene involves similar steps and the prices of these products are also almost similar all over the World;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the Government's pricing Petrol more than two-and-half times that of Diesel whereas the ex-refinery price of petrol is Rs. 1.694 per litre and C&F charges at Rs. 640/- kilolitre; and

(c) the reasons of such anomaly in manufacturing and selling cost of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Manufacturing process for Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene are different.

(b) and (c) LPG packed (Domestic) and SKO (PDS) are subsidised petroleum products. Subsidy on petroleum products is not financed through budgetary support but met through Oil Pool Account Mechanism by way of cross subsidisation of products like Motor spirit and Aviation Turbine Fuel.

[Translation]

Solar Thermal Power Station in Bihar

1810. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Bihar Government for setting up a Solar Thermal Power Station in Fatehpur Tekari in Gaya, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the date on which it was received and the action taken thereon?