

vehicles take a long time to cover short distances. So, passengers, tourists and pilgrims face a lot of difficulties. There are frequent occurrences of immediate steps traffic accidents. So, Government may be pleased to take immediate steps for the speedy execution of this southern-most Trivandrum-Kanyakumari road work at the earliest.

- (vi) Demand to continue the facilities provided to Balasore District, Orissa, under No Industries Districts upto 31.3.1988.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): The people of Balasore districts in particular, and the State of Orissa in general are very grateful to the Union Government for declaring Balasore district as a 'No-Industry District'. Due to this welcome decision, many small and medium scale industries have been set up in various parts of this district, resulting in benefits to the poor and lower middle class people. It is understood that the Government is going to stop the facilities provided to small scale industries entrepreneurs from 31st March 1987. As the marketing of the industrial products is very much available at Calcutta, and to obtain the facilities of subsidies on their investments, many entrepreneurs of poor and lower middle classes applied for the establishment of small scale industries in the district, and got the sanctions from the DIC concerned, which are now under process at various levels like Orissa State Financial Corporation, nationalized banks etc. The Balasore district being famous for the production of agricultural produce, specially various types of vegetables and horticultural products, many agro-based industries are to be established by those entrepreneurs, in the absence of which lakhs of people of the farming communities will suffer most.

In such circumstances, I would request the Union Government to extend the time of such 'No-Industries District' facilities for one year more, i.e. upto 31st March 1988; and the decision may kindly be announced by the Central Government at the earliest.

- (vii) Need for measures to develop Talangana region of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): In Andhra Pradesh, ten districts of the Telangana region are very backward both economically and socially. The people of Warangal District thought that after independence their lives will be prosperous. The Warangal District could be developed economically and industrially by setting up railway second coach factory, etc. But in the interest of the nation it was given to Punjab. There is no big industry except Azam Jahi Mills, which was established before independence during Nizam Regime. It too has not been generating any employment.

The Warangal District has much potential and can be developed industrially and agriculturally. The people are hard working. Due to unemployment, the young frustrated and educated youths are involving themselves in terrorism and other extremist activities.

The only way is to create employment and congenial atmosphere in the district to prevent the innocent people from turning into terrorism. In view of this, I request the Central Government to take following measures to develop Warangal District economically:—

To provide irrigation facilities in drought prone areas of western part of Warangal District by sanctioning additional funds for high level canal on flood channel on Sriram Ram Sagar Project to the tune of Rs 650 crores to create more employment. The scheme is pending with government of India.

Additional Central funds for providing transportation facilities in forest areas for the uplift of the tribals may also be provided.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1987-88
Contd.

[English]

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

[Translation]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the other day I was saying that the dealership of petrol pumps and diesel pumps which was allotted by your Ministry to Certain persons is still being continued in others' names even till date after the death of the earlier owners. I can give a list of such pumps to you. I would like to urge you to conduct an enquiry into it and find out as to how many such petrol pumps are there and why are they being run in all illegal manner.

In addition to this I would also like to submit that the demand for petrol has increased in our country. The number of vehicles has increased. The use of tractor in agriculture has increased. The population has increased. The demand for consumer items manufactured from petroleum has increased. The O.N.G.C. is doing a very good job in this direction, but there has been very negligible increase in the production of oil which ought to have been more. I had the opportunity of meeting the O.N.G.C. officials and have a discussion with them. They expressed the difficulty that the O.N.G.C. does not have latest equipments to work in the field. They are not well equipped. You should also pay attention towards this aspect that they should get the latest equipments required for drilling so that they may undertake their job within the scheduled time and they could work more efficiently.

In addition to that, I put forward this suggestions very often in this House that large quantities of gas is unnecessarily burnt. Several other hon. Members have also spoken about it. Though there is no special connection of your Ministry with it, yet I would like to urge you that you should also pay attention towards it. There is a great shortage of electricity in our country and and we generate electricity 'through other means'.

Why should we not set up gas based power generation plants and why should we not increase our power generation capacity by making use of this sector. I had made my submission regarding agencies earlier also. There is problem regarding supply of cylinders and filling of gas. Special attention should be paid towards this problem. If possible, licences for filling plants should be given to the private entrepreneurs and so far as manufacturing of cylinders is concerned, in addition to Public Sector Units, Private Sector should also be encouraged and licences should be granted to them for their production so that cylinders could be made available to the people. I would also like to make one more suggestion. Our country is predominantly an agricultural country. Earlier also during the discussion on budget, I had this demand and as this discussion is going on, the Petroleum Ministry, I would once again demand that at least for the agricultural sector, the prices of diesel and kerosene must be reduced. So far as the question of diesel for tractors and kerosene for rural areas is concerned, the rural people and the farmers should be provided special facility and there must be some reduction in the rates of diesel for them. Whatever arrangements have been made by the states or by the Ministry for the distribution of kerosene there are a lot of shortcomings in its distribution system. I would like to suggest that like petrol pumps and diesel pumps, the facility of kerosene pumps should also be provided at the Block level. Such pumps could be operated by the Government itself. In this way, supply of kerosene could be ensured to the people in the rural areas. At Present, allotment of kerosene is made by the D. S. Os. and a lot of kerosene is wasted in transit, it takes a lot of time and the distribution system also does not appear to be proper.

I would like to congratulate the General Manager, Officers and staff of Mathura refinery. It is because of their efficiency that their quality and capacity have greatly improved. But I have some complaints also. There is a lot of bungling in the marketing division of the refinery. I would like to draw the special attention of the hon. Minister towards this. When Shri Nawal Kishoreji was looking after the work of the Ministry of Petroleum, I had raised this issue to him. He had conducted a

raid in which some employees of your refinery were found to be involved in the racket. Some tankers were taken under control which were got released by the officers. I have come to know that officers of the marketing division are involved in such a racket. Tankers are filled in an illegal manner and these tankers are not entered in the register and such stolen oil is sold in the market openly. Many agencies are engaged in such an activity and their tankers have been found selling oil generally in the market. You should take most stern action in this regard. So far as security system in the refinery is concerned, there is some lacuna in it. It has come to my notice that any ordinary citizen can get entry into the refinery in collusion with the security staff. Refinery is an unit where great damage could be caused if there is any laxity in its security system. The security system should be very rigid so that any unauthorised person could not get entry into it. I would also like to put forward two or three problems before you. There is one category of land losers. The Ministry was given clear directions that one member from each family of such category of persons should be provided service in the refinery. People from the area come to me. You should appoint a committee for this and a survey should be conducted in this regard. The people of the area have such a complaint even today that the sons or daughters of the families of land losers have not been provided jobs even now. Hence, after the enquiry has been conducted, you should ensure that such persons are provided jobs if they have not been provided jobs. There is also the problem of temporary labourers in the refinery, who have been working there for many years. They are provided work for 15 days, 20 days or 25 days in a month. Many persons come to me in this connection. Their delegation had also met you. You should take steps for their confirmation.

I would like to make one more submission to you. There is one factory being run by Balmer Lawrie which is engaged in the manufacturing of cylinders. It has one drum division there. Whenever persons are to be employed in it, lists are prepared. I am M. P. from the area and there are some M. L. As also. We do not want that if 100

persons are to be appointed, then all the 100 persons recommended by us should be appointed. but at least two or four persons who we recommend for appointment must be employed. I am very sorry to say that you officers do not pay attention in this regard. We do not say that the persons who are not qualified should be employed, but the persons who are qualified for the job must be employed. Your Ministry should issue an order in this regard and if you like, I can see you with the names of persons. As there is refinery in Mathura, efforts are being made to avoid the ill effects of pollution on Taj. Pollution Control Board has put a ban on setting up of any factory causing pollution within 100 kms, which include Mathura, Aligarh and District Bharatpur in Rajasthan. Similarly, I have come to know that a Linear Alkali Benzene Project is proposed to be sanctioned for Mathura. I would urge you that you should help us in this regard and this project must be set up in Mathura so that people of Mathura and neighbouring areas could get employment. We would also manufacture by products of kerosene, if any and this would provide employment to the people of the area.

With these words, I support the demands for grants of your Ministry

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to take much of your time, but I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards two points. Even otherwise, Bihar is a backward state from every point of view and so far as Petroleum Department is concerned, Bihar is being neglected grossly in respect of all the products of Petroleum Ministry. There was a proposal to set up a Petro-Chemical Plant in Barauni after 1980-81. The proposal was almost in the final stage, but now nothing has been heard about it. Perhaps this thing would not have been brought in the notice of the present Minister....., because this matter was very vigorously raised during the last Lok Sabha.

16.55 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH, *in the Chair*]

[Shri Ajoy Kumar Yadav]

There was an indication from the Government side also at that time and some M. Ps. of the ruling party had also stated this thing in their respective areas.

There is acute shortage of Petroleum Products in entire Bihar. It is a matter of happiness that our farmers have now started the use of petroleum products in agricultural sector in a very big way. Therefore, what is required today is that maximum outlets for distribution of petr. prod. be set up in Bihar so that farmers could get diesel which could be used by them for irrigation and other agricultural operations. If you examine, you would find that keeping in view the population and acreage of agriculture in Bihar, it is lagging behind very much in comparison to other advanced states and so much of outlets have not been set up there as have been set up in other developed states. The headquarters of my constituency Nalanda is in Bihar Sharief. There is so much syortage of Petrol and diessel that some times it is not available for months together. Petrol and diesel is not supplied to shops. There has has not been any improvement in the situation so far and the situation continues to be the same. The problem of power supply is already there. As a result farmers are facing a problem. Therefore, it is my first submission to you that hon. Minister should ensure the supply of petroleum products at least in Bihar Sharief and other District headquarters, Sub-divisional headquarters and Block headquarters so that people could get some facility. Recently you have made an arrangement to start L. P. G. dealership generally in district headquarters. In my constituency, there is only one L. P. G. agency where there is one kilometre long queue almost daily. The consumers have to wait for quit a long time for setting a refill. Due to shortage of cylinders, people have to purchase cylinders from the black market and have to pay more price than the fixed price. I wodid, therefore, request you to make arrangements to open gas agencies in adequate number in Bihar Sharief and other district headquarters keeping in view the population of such citics and gas agencies should also be sanctioned in Sub-divisional headquarters

so that people could get L. P. G. connections and the burden on consumers who have to depend on other means could be reduced.

Thirdly, I would like to made my submission about Kerosene, which is in great demand in our state. Until now peole depend on kerosen in the villages. Mostly the poor, harijans and backward castes live in the villages and the policy of our present Government is to provide maximum help to them. If you look at their condition, you will find that help in very negligible amount is available to them. The Central Government sanctions the quota to Bihar, but it is not made available to them. I would, therefore, request you to set up a network of outlets in entire Bihar for distribution of Petroleum products so that farmers could get facilities for irrigation and other works. At present even electricity has not reached each and every village and the villagers have to live in the dark at every place. Therefore, keeping in view the requirements and the situation there, it is very necessary to open outlets for kerosen on a very large scale. I wanted to submit only these main points.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) :
Mr. Chirman, Sir, first of all, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister, because his Department has done very important and commendable work during the year under review. I would like to make a special mention of O. N. G. C. which has earned a profit of more than Rs. 6 crores. But in addition to it, I would like to make some submission to the hon. Minister through you. Your target is to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of crude oil by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. By the end of Seventh Five Year Plan, our requirement would be to the tune of approx. 6.26 crores of tonnes, whereas our indigenous production is likely to be only 3.45 crores of tonnes.

In this way you will have to spend huge amount of foreign exchange on imports of crude oil. In 1986-87 crude oil to the tunne of 15 6 lakh million tonnes has already been imported on which you have spent Rs. 2250 crores. Similarly, in 1987-88 you will have to import 17.34 million

tonnes of crude oil and 3.9 million tonnes of other petroleum products on which Rs. 800 crores will have to be spent. In this way foreign exchange spending on petroleum is increasing every year. It was estimated that by Seventh Five Year Plan foreign exchange expenditure on petroleum products will come down and we will become more and more self-reliant, but no significant work has been done in this direction. The other reason for this is that our demand of petroleum and petroleum products increases by 6.4 per cent every year. Keeping in view the above position, if on shore as well as off shore drilling is not accelerated, ONGC is not going to achieve self-reliance by 2000 AD. This is a matter which should be thought over by you and by the country. I hope you will throw light on this in your reply.

Another thing I want to submit is that you had said that we will supply domestic gas connections to the towns having population of 20,000 and above. This arrangement should be implemented. As has been said in your Report, gas is being found in huge quantities, but you do not have gas cylinders to fill or you do not have arrangement to preserve the gas. Why do you not take some concrete steps in this regard. This will result in savings so the nation. The gas worth crores of rupees is being burnt; that can be utilised for the development of the country. There is scarcity of power in the country. Natural gas can be the alternative of the power today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, about Rajasthan, I would like to submit that in Ramgarh, gas-based power plant is being set up, but so far, rates have not been finalised. Rajasthan Electricity Board wants to give 50 paise whereas ONGC is demanding 70 paise. I request that the rates should immediately be finalised on concessional basis. If that power plant is set up, the country will get large scale power generation from it. You are aware that in Kota the average generation cost comes to 63 paise per kilo watt. What you are demanding will be even more than this. How will the farmers and other people be able to pay this much. I therefore, request that you may kindly reconsider sympathetically

at your level and provide relief in the matter of power supply

Sir, alongwith it, I would like to submit that ONGC is working in Gotas. ONGC people work in desert areas also. I appreciate their services as its workers are working there facing heat, shortage of water and other difficulties. I demand that you should provide facilities to them. They have only one drilling machine. There should be at least 4 drilling machines there, because it is a vast stretch of land. No facility is available to the persons who are working there. There are a lot of difficulties in reaching that area as well as in the living conditions prevailing there. Permanent houses should be constructed for their living. These houses should be constructed in the shape of a colony. It is a permanent feature, because you will be earning from that place. The gas and petroleum are available in abundance in that area. Whatever investment is, therefore, made will be for the benefit of the country. Therefore, you should formulate long term planning from now itself. Residential and other facilities should be provided there so that the workers and officers are able to reach that place easily. The conditions there should not be difficult, because where there are difficulties no one likes to live there. People live in desert leaving Delhi, Jaipur and other big cities. Then you should at least make available the minimum facilities like drinking water and food. For this you should make proper arrangements and a long term policy should be formulated for this purpose.

Alongwith it, Oil India Ltd. is also doing a commendable job. It has selected 4 districts, namely, Bikaner, Shriganganagar, Jaisalmer and Nagaur. The company has conducted a seismic survey of 27 thousand kms. This survey now requires further expansion. They need a machine costing Rs. 13 crores but you do not want to buy machine for them. Sometime you talk of hiring it and sometime you say something else. You should decide whether you are going to buy it or hire it so that the money that has been spent is put to proper use. Otherwise it will go waste. Therefore, the machine the technicians and officials require there should be made available.

[Shri Ram Singh Yadav]

17.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The hon Minister has good knowledge of Uttar Pradesh. Presently kerosene oil is being mixed in the diesel. This is resulting in damage to the tractors, trucks and other automobiles. This matter has been raised time and again. For the last 7 years I have been demanding that some steps should be taken which may help in differentiating kerosene oil from diesel. At present, the way large scale adulteration is going on, the officers even if they wish, cannot stop it. To check this, some concrete step should be taken and some technique should be invented which may help in showing both diesel and kerosene oil separately. Earlier the former Minister had assured that scientists are trying to do something in this regard. Kindly tell us the progress made in that regard.

In the end I submit that in Rajasthan where all places have not yet been electrified, there is acute shortage of kerosene oil, specially in Western area. What arrangements are being made to supply it in time? A depot should be opened in Jodhpur or any other place so that people there may get the facility.

Lastly, I think the officers and workers of your Ministry and companies once again for working with dedication and making good progress. I hope that further progress will be made in this field. With these words I support the demands for grants of your Ministry.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DATT): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 20 hon. Members have expressed their views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. I express my gratitude to them. Before I reply to certain questions raised by the hon.

Members, I would like to tell something about oil industry and natural gas.

We have not only achieved targets fixed during last few years in regard to production of crude oil, but we have closed them also. Our refineries are utilising almost 100 per cent of their capacity and the flaring up of natural gas has come down from 38 per cent to 27 per cent.

In these two years 16 lakh new LPG connections have been given and 800 new dealerships have been provided. There has been marked increase in the opening of retail depots of diesel and wholesale depots of kerosene oil. Significant thing is the financial gains. After deducting taxes both Central taxes and State taxes—the Petroleum and Natural Gas Industry has earned a profit of Rs. 1631 crores in 1985-86. In 1986-87 this profit has gone up to Rs. 1981 crores. In this field our contribution in 1985-86 in the shape of royalty, taxes, dividend, cess toward Central Exchequer was Rs. 5962 crores and now in 1986 it has gone up to Rs. 6788 crores which is Rs. 800 crores more than the previous year. In addition, we have provided Rs. 1828 crores in different forms to the States in 1985-86. This contribution in 1986-87 has risen to Rs. 1977 crores. In addition to contributing to the Central and State exchequers, the most significant thing is that during 1985-86 our internal resources from oil and natural gas which were worth Rs. 2800 crores, have risen to Rs. 3357 crores in 1986-87. This amount is almost half of the internal resources of the public sector. So far as targets of the plan are concerned, we are meeting 80 per cent of the financial requirements through our internal resources.

A doubt was raised that the resources of the Oil and Natural Gas have been transferred to other sectors. I want to assure the House that no constraints of funds will be allowed to come in the way of schemes included in the plan and the programmes connected with oil and Natural Gas.

It is essential to refer to one more thing. In 1986, there was heavy reduction

in the international prices of oil. Consequently, we could save foreign exchange worth about Rs. 1850 crores due to the pre-arrangements for buying oil. Prices of the natural gas were also a matter of discussion for quite a long time.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : One gas connection each should then be provided to us on this occasion of happiness.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Let me concluder Even otherwise I do not want to take much time. We have fixed prices for gas On shore drilling is done at about Rs. 1400 per thousand cubic metre whereas it is Rs. 2250 near HBJ pipeline, but this year large scale priority and facilities have been provided to the backward areas like Rajasthan, Assam and Eastern region.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : Is U.P. not backward ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : It is a matter of shame for me to call U.P. a backward State

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The State from which the Minister comes is not backward.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I want to say one thing more. We should ensure that the petroleum and petroleum products are saved to the maximum extent and there is minimum consumption of them. Petroleum Conservation Research Association has done a good job and till last year it has helped in effecting a saving of Rs. 200 crores. Now efforts are on to save Rs. 33 crores annually.

Several hon. Members, specially Shri Patil, Shri Reddy and Shri Virdhi Chand Jain have talked of self-reliance. My concept of self-reliance is somewhat different. Of course, we should try to increase our production, but if we stop the consumption of petroleum and diesel etc. in the country, it will not be in the interest of the country.

Therefore, the concept of self reliance is quite complicated. But one thing is definitely causing anxiety. By the end of Sixth Five Year Plan, we were producing 69 per cent of our requirement, but by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan we will be able to meet only 61 per cent of our requirement. It is a matter of concern. The main reason for this is that our demand has increased by 6.5 to 7 per cent. We have not struck as big a reshve as we had struck in Bombay High in 1974.

One more submission I want to make here. Oil or natural gas is not produced like some comodity in the factory. It is not like this that you will put in raw material and a finished good will come out. For this we have to keep on exploring with new and sophisticated techniquestand exploit wherever reserves of oil and natural gas are found. We have accelerated our efforts. People had advised us that with the fall in prices we too should bring down our prices, but we did not do so. We have entered into agreement with Soviet Union that it should explore oil in Kaveri Basin in Tamilnadu, Cambay Basin in Gujarat and Bengal Basin. In addition, we have received bids from seven companies for exploring oil in high seas. We want that they should explore and if oil is struck, we will enter into agreement with them. Not only this we ourselves want to do such work abroad. Recently, we have entered into an agreement with Vietnam. We will explore oil there and if oil is found, we will participate in drilling out oil also. we are already undertaking exploration work in Tanzania and Qatar. We want to make it a big industry in which we want cocperation from others as well as provide cooperation to others.

In the meanwhile 22 sites have been explored, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Assam and Gujarat. We have explored Western coast also. We have enhanced our known reserves by 470 million tonnes. Our gas finding the Sixth Plan has also registered an increase of about 50 per cent as compared to the Seventh plan.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Is there any hindrance on the part of the Finance Department ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The Department of Petroleum does not depend much on the Department of Finance. As I have already told, our dependence is to the extent of 20 per cent only. We can face hindrance to the extent of 20 per cent. That too will be removed ; it does not matter much.

We need latest techniques in the exploration of oil and natural gas. Of late, it has been our endeavour to get equipment, machinery and services from the Indian industry. Industries have been set up in the joint sector and we have made efforts to become near self-sufficient by allowing them price increase ranging between 15 to 35 per cent. As a result of this, we had savings of Rs 948 crores in 1985-86 because our own people had provided us with services and equipment. Now I come to natural gas. At the outset, I would like to make it clear that natural gas is not L.P.G. or cooking gas. L.P.G. is produced in refineries and is extracted from natural gas too. At present, about 5 lakh tonnes of L.P.G. is coming from natural gas. In Uran and Trombay in Maharashtra, natural gas is being used for generation of electricity. We are using natural gas in Hajira (Gujarat) and Trombay (Maharashtra) fertilizer plants also L.P.G. is being supplied to Baroda city from natural gas. We have decided in principle to do the same for a big city like Bombay and hope that it would be extended to other places as well.

The hon. Members are aware that there are three power plants one each in Pawas in Gujarat, Anta in Rajasthan and Oraya in Uttar Pradesh, based on gas from Hajira—Bijoypur—Jagdishpur pipe line. At present, their capacity is 500 M.W. which is going to be raised to 1500 M.W. in due course of time. Out of 6 fertilizer plants, 4 are in Uttar Pradesh whom you were calling backward (*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : by when the Anta power plant is expected to be commissioned ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I understand that we shall be able to supply gas by June and it is hoped the Bijoypur plant would be commissioned by the month of August. For Anta too we are making efforts, but our position is that of a supplier. We are taking up the matter with the State Governments so that they could enrol the consumers.

One more thing I want to say. Whether it is Gujarat or Rajasthan, we have discussed the matter with the Power Minister of both the states and have impressed upon them to set up mini power plants wherever small quantity of gas is found. I think Shri Jain had referred to mangarh. I want to assure him that we shall supply as much gas as is available there...(*Interruptions*) In your area also—from Minipur to Assam ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) : Sir, may I intervene...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No intervention like this. I will not allow any one to intervene like this. Let him finish.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Sir, these are democratic interventions...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Democratically, you can ask questions. You cannot intervene...

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Not only democratic but constructive also.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Minister is not admitting it. You cannot go on putting the question....

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : As I said earlier, first of all, Bijoypur fertilizer plant is expected to be commissioned in July. We shall be in a position to supply them gas in June. The work on H.B.J. pipeline, which was running behind

schedule earlier is now running on schedule. We are monitoring it strictly and we hope to complete it on schedule.

Now I come to another important point. Several hon. Members, particularly Shri Veerendra Patil and Dr. Venketesh have mentioned about Karnal and Mangalore refineries. This matter has been hanging fire for almost four years, but this year we have decided that we are going to set up Karnal and Mangalore refineries. There will be a petro-chemical refinery at Mangalore which will use the most modern and latest technique. We have entered into partnership with the Indian Rayon Corporation in this regard...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : Sir, sorry for the intervention. Could you tell something about the Petro-chemical complex in Assam ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Let me come to Assam. I am starting from South and going to North.. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

With regard to H.P.C.L., probably, the Memorandum of Understanding will be signed within this month and a detailed project report will be prepared...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Could you tell as to when the Mangalore Refinery work will be done ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I am telling you the steps we are taking...

DR. V. VENKATESH : You have been telling like this...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We have already selected a Joint Partner. We have

already made a Joint Venture. We have already prepared the Memorandum of Understanding. We are going to sign it. We have already allotted a sum of Rs. 30 crores. It will be the latest (Interruptions) Land has been acquired. The land is also available.

AN. HON. MEMBER : Everything is there...

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : When the work will be started ? That is my point...

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : As soon as the Memorandum of Understanding is signed, the work will be started. Detailed project report will be prepared. That is the first work that is always to be done... (Interruptions) Both the sides of Karnataka—from this side and that side—will be satisfied. Don't worry about it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : THE Whole of India is anxiously awaiting it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I don't treat but industry as regional industry. It is a national industry. Whole nation will be satisfied.

Similarly, we have gone ahead with the setting up of Karnal refinery and for this we have entered into partnership with the Tata Chemicals and the work is going to be commenced. It is our endeavour to see that the most latest technique, called Hydrotaking technique is used, so that availability of kerosene and diesel, which we import in large quantity, could be increased. For Karnal Refinery, we want to lay pipeline from Chaksu to Karnal. U.S.S.R. has offered help for this venture and we are going to accept that help.

Our friends from Assam are worried about refineries. The E.I.L. company has taken up the work of preparing feasibility report jointly with the Government of Assam and we have asked them to submit the feasibility report by

[Shri Brahma Dutta]

next month. I hope, E.I.L. would submit the report to us and we shall discuss it with you.

About Assam, I would like to say one more thing. The working of the refinery, whether it is Digboi, Guwahati or Bongaigaon refinery, would depend on the availability of oil at the refinery. In order to ensure supply of oil to refinery, the O.N.G.C. and the Oil India should be provided an atmosphere conducive to working.

[English]

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : May I seek a clarification ? We have three refineries, one in Bongaigaon, one in Guwahati and one in Digboi. We have no trouble in Bongaigaon, we have no trouble in Guwahati. But why do we have trouble in Upper Assam ? There must be some reason for it, and the reason is very well known to the Petroleum Ministry. But they would not act. They can remove these points of irritation from Upper Assam, but they would not. They are making it a matter of prestige. That is why, they are losing crores and crores of rupees. It has now come to Rs. 20 crores which these refineries are losing in Assam.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I do not want to enter into a controversy. I was making a very constructive appeal only. Because one of the most senior Members is present here, I just want to confine myself to making this appeal please create conditions where work can go on.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : Be magnanimous in victory.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We are doing our best. I have talked personally to the Chief Minister, Assam, I have talked personally to the hon. Members from Assam, I have talked personally to the AASU boys. Please let us have time. Administrative measures have to be taken in a proper order, in a proper manner.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : But there are forces in Assam...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We are not going to succumb to any pressure. That is all. Whatever is required to be done to create the necessary conditions, we will do that. Do not worry about it. Nobody can pressurize us to do this or that because it is not a regional industry; it is a national industry. But I promise that steps are being taken for that

[Translations]

I have drawn the attention of the Chief Minister to it and have also discussed it with the Chief Secretary. They have assured all cooperation in this regard.

Now a few words about L.P.G. In 1982-83, the production of L.P.G. was about 5.7 lakh tonnes which increased to 14.7 lakh tonnes in 1986-87 a three times increase.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH : Sir, the English translation is not coming.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He says that the English translation is not coming.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The rest of the things, I can do in English

During this year we will be adding 17 lakhs more customers and by the end of the Seventh Plan we expect to serve 1,74,00,000 customers of LPG with a production of nearly 20 lakh tonnes of LPG. That means, from 1982-83, from 5.7 lakh tonnes of LPG, the LPG production will go up to 20 lakh tonnes.

Another difficulty is in respect of bottling plants, because even if LPG is available and bottling plants are not available, we cannot supply cylinders. We have got 46 bottling plants and in the so-called third phase, we are putting up 42 bottling plants, and I hope they will be ready by March 1988. We are also planning to start the fourth phase of bottling plants to augment the supply of LPG cylinders.

Hon Members have suggested that LPG should go to the villages. I agree with them. But we will have to have LPG cylinder bottling plants. After the 4th phase we will be able to supply the LPG gas to remote areas. We are particularly concerned about the hilly, desert, remote areas in the north eastern regions where people have to depend on timber fuel. With more and more increased supply of LPG, this will be done. We are also thinking that for hilly areas or the remote areas we should have smaller cylinders weighing less and costing less, so that people can carry them on their back.

AN HON. MEMBER : At subsidised rate.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The whole LPG is subsidised.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want free ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Recently we have increased the commission of the LPG distributors because there was a big demand for it and the LPG commission was fixed long ago. But simultaneously we have made them agree to a code of discipline. I hope they will abide by this discipline and we will try to enforce this code of discipline.

LPG is a very valuable domestic fuel. Mr. Singhji was saying that it works out to Rs. 205 crores. But we are doing it. We will like that those State Governments which will benefit by it will also share some burden. When the whole scheme is ready, I will come with details. These new small cylinders should not weigh more than 15 kgs., so that they can be carried on the head-load or on the back-load.

There was a difficulty of Oil Selection Boards. The term expired in June 1986. We made all attempts to constitute the new Oil Selection Boards and in consultation with oil industries we made selection of judges and the retired IAS officers. But we have been able to have one selection board for the southern region because three other judges have taken some

assignment else where; but think I will finish the job in the next month.

About the LPG distributorship much has been said. 45% are reserved for various categories - 25% for the SC and ST, 7 1/2% for physically handicapped, another 7 1/2% for the widows of defence personnel, 5% for the freedom fighters—and 55% is for the open category. Here, preference is given to unemployed graduates, particularly engineering graduates. Of course, here when we give LPG distributorship to a Harijan or to a freedom fighter who cannot afford to make the investment, a lot of benami things take place. This is a genuine difficulty and I have yet to find out a solution to it.

Much has been said about kerosene because in the villages it is used for cooking and lighting. We have been trying to increase the allotment to various states. In 1986-87, 4.4 lakh tonnes of extra kerosene was allotted to the states. Particularly we are caring for those states where the average consumption is below the national level. I don't go into details.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara) : War widows also come in the same category.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : War widows, freedom fighters, physically handicapped, SC and ST—these are the reserved categories.

Suggestions have been made about opening kerosene depots at block levels. There are 5092 blocks in the country and we have 5477 wholesale kerosene dealers in the country. Out of this, 3790 dealers are in the block headquarters and taluk headquarters. That means, about 1300 to 1400 more wholesale depots will have to be opened to cover all the block headquarters and taluk headquarters.

In the next few years we shall attempt it. If kerosene is available at block headquarters it will be easier for the villager to get the supply but here the cooperation of the State Government is required because the retail distribution is in their hands.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Many a time suggestion has been given for simplifying the procedure regarding giving of LPG agency to the war widows and war casualties because this category is peculiar by its very nature but nothing much has been done. On the contrary there have been occasions it has been brought in this House in the shape of a question when honest war casualties have been deprived of these agencies because they did not connive with the local corrupt Indian oil authorities. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry but of no avail. Would you like to consider that even these kerosene wholesale depots are given at seven and a half percent reservation to the war casualties as well as to those who have been given are protected instead of being harassed ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The hon. Member's suggestion is most welcome. I have got sympathy for them. If any case is brought to my notice I will look into it. As regards formulating the general policy I am myself doing everything which will mitigate their problems.

I want to mention something about North-Eastern region. It is engaging our special attention. Recently in December 1986 and January-February 1987 officers of our Ministry visited Nagaland, Assam, etc. and had detailed discussions with the Civil Supplies Departments of those States for streamlining distributorship. A number of hon. Members have referred to various matters relating to particular States and location. There is little time left but I will be replying to all of them personally.

I want to mention three things. I have already mentioned about LPG supply in remote hill areas that we are considering preparing fourth phase in which small cylinders will be prepared and they will be especially meant for these areas. About kerosene supply I have said that in future we will try to cover the remaining blocks. Out of 5092 only in 3770 blocks wholesale depots are available. In the next 2-3 years we will cover all the blocks. I am happy to announce that hon. Members who are recommending names for 12 LPG connections from discretionary quota of the Minister now in the calendar year they can

recommend 12 LPG connections. Next year we will further see when bottling plants come up. This will not lapse month-wise also.

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : You please raise this quota from one to two LPG connections.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : We will do it next year, because I have a difficulty. Had our third phase been completed this year I would have raised this quota to two connections. I assure you that who so ever will be the Petroleum Minister will double this quota in March 1988.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : As you are doing for Garhwal, you should also do something for Himachal Pradesh also.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : For me Kashmir, Leh, Himachal, Garhwal, Kumayun, Sikkam, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh are equal and all have the same problems.

SHRI BALKAVI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Panditji has frightened us by saying "whosoever would be the Petroleum Minister next year". He is threatening us.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Even Shri Bairagiji may be Petroleum Minister.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : If Bairagiji becomes Petroleum Minister that will create great difficulty, because petroleum is a worldly affair and we do not want to create feeling detachment in the mind of the Minister of Petroleum.

[English]

In a short time, I tried to sum up the points and to give a wide picture of the oil and natural gas industry. I request the Hon'ble Members to withdraw their cut motions so that these grants may be approved.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : I wanted to raise one question, that is, about

holding interviews for oil jobs in Assam. Every applicant has to go to various places like Dehra Dun and Calcutta. It is not possible for the people of the eastern region to go to all these places. Can you start some recruiting centres in the north-eastern region ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : I assure you, Hon'ble Member, that in the north-eastern region, we will have interviews. But another thing I want is that the people from Assam should be exposed to other areas also.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : That is there.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : They are working in Dehra Dun and I invite the Hon'ble Member to go to Dehra Dun. How the Assamese are living and also see how people from my district are living in Assam. Please protect their children. Please protect their wives ; please protect their womanhood.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : That is a very small percentage.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the

Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to vote together, unless any Hon. Member desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut motions were put and negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to vote :

The question is :

“That the respective sum not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the president out of the Consolidated Fund of Indian to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1988, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 58 relating to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.”

The motion was adopted.

Demand for Grant in respect of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 1987-88 voted by Lok Sabha.

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1987		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
1	2	3	4		
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
58.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	98,00,000	1,94,51,00,000	4,91,00,000	2,41,32,00,000