

coal have been of the opinion that for advancement determinations, it was necessary to be able to decide pit head value with accuracy, which was not only difficult but could also invite disputes from States as well as major consumers. There would also be anomalies as the old mines with smaller capital investments would generally have lower pit value of production compared to the new mines where capital investment per tonne was much more.

The rates of royalty on coal are fixed on the basis of grades of coal and do not change depending on the State in which the coal is produced.

[English]

Introduction of Liquid Gas

2058. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new concept of producing coking gas called 'liquid gas' in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages of new 'liquid gas' when compared to the present liquified petroleum gas; and

(d) the time by which the liquid gas is likely to be freely available in the market, by whom and the price at which it would be available?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Import of Paraxylene by I.P.C.L.

2059. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paraxylene imported by the Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. for the production of DMT and PTA in the country during 1989-90;

(b) the foreign exchange involved in the import of paraxylene;

(c) whether despite a huge quantity of indigenously produced paraxylene being available in the country, Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. has finalised a deal with Mitsui of Japan for import of paraxylene;

(d) if so, the quantity of paraxylene being imported through IPCL; and

(e) the reasons for import of paraxylene when indigenously produced paraxylene is available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e). In order to meet the demand-supply gap, IPCL, as a canalising agency, imported 42199 MT of paraxylene in 1989-90 for producers of DMT. The foreign exchange involved was of the order of 28.419 million US \$. This included two parcels from M/s. Mitsui

Drilling in New Areas

2060. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to take up exploratory drilling for oil in new areas which have not been adequately explored so far;

(b) if so, the details of the locations identified for the purpose; and

(c) the estimated expenditure involved on the new exploratory activities?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New areas hitherto unexplored are being taken up for exploratory/parametric drilling at Tamia, Anthoni, Dewari and Jabera in Madhya Pradesh, Padampur and Umarthi in Maharashtra and Nagaram and Ashwarapet in Andhra Pradesh.

In addition to the above new areas, various areas like Maijlar and Shahgarh sub basins of Rajasthan, northwest part of Bombay offshore self, Dhansiri Valley in Upper Assam, Eastern Tripura and South Cachar, Southeast of Tatipaka, Pasarlapudi area in Krishna-Godavari basin, Gulf of Cambay, Shallow waters along the Gujarat coast, Eastern margin of Broach depression in Cambay basin, Patan depression in North Gujarat have also been taken up for exploratory drilling.

(c) Expenditure of approximately Rs. 30.00 crores is expected to be incurred during the 8th plan period in such areas.

Increase in Mangalore Refinery Capacity

2061. **SHRI K. S. RAO:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the capacity of Mangalore refinery;

(b) if so, the extent of increase envisaged;

(c) the estimated expenditure of the refinery with the original capacity and also with increased capacity; and

(d) when a final decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). At present there is no refinery at Mangalore. However, the proposal to set up a new refinery with a capacity of 3 million metric tonnes per annum is under consideration of the Government.

A Joint Venture Company with Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Rayon & Industries Limited as Co-promoters was incorporated in March, 1988. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted in March, 1989. The proposal was submitted for the consideration of the PIB in August, 1989. A revised proposal has been sent to PIB in August, 1990 for consideration.

Reduction in Price on LPG

2062. **SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to reduce the price of LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to promote LPG as main fuel?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to promote LPG as the main fuel.