

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.