

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee about pricing of gas are being examined by the Government. The Government has not taken any decision about it. But we will take decision on it very soon.

[Translation]

PROF. VJAYKUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a question of great national importance and the hon. Minister is taking it very casually and is not replying to the question. I seek your protection. Long queues are there to get diesel. People have applied for LPG connections many years back, but they could not get connections. There is shortage of petrol. Kerosene is not available in villages. Farmers are not getting diesel for agriculture. When it was asked as to what steps the Government is taking to make these things available, the hon. Minister has said that he cannot disclose the scheme, because there is something secret. I fail to understand as to what secret is there. You have to explore natural gas and crude oil, so what is secret in it. It has to be explored within the country. We have been hearing it for the last ten years that within next two years, India will become self-sufficient in this field. But the condition is worsening since then. What steps is the Government going to take in this regard? Has the Government given priority to it in the Eighth Five Year Plan? China, Malaysia and Indonesia have not only become self sufficient in this field, but these countries are supplying crude oil to us. Why has the Government not taken steps in this direction under such circumstances? The hon. Minister should state as to what steps the Government have proposed to take in future. Please do not say that it is serious or something secret. Either the hon. Minister has no information about it or they have not yet decided about it.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, sir, it is true that with the Gulf crisis, problem of diesel shortage has also started in the country. But the Government has made sufficient efforts to maintain diesel supply for agricultural sector.

So far as LPG connections are concerned, there was ban on registration of new connections, but now ban has been lifted. So far as the question of self-sufficiency is concerned, I have stated it in my reply that the Government is concerned about it. As the hon. Minister has stated that efforts are going on for the last ten years and I would say that we would seriously make more efforts to achieve self sufficiency and it is possible that we may have its results very soon.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I think the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that in West Bengal there has been a shortage with regard to drilling of wells for the last 40 years. About 500 crores of rupees have been spent but there has been no reliable indication of either hydrocarbons or oil. In this case, the union of which I am also an office bearer had made elaborate representations about the defects in the working of the drilling of the wells and also the method of calculation and the method of collecting the date. It has been suggested by the Union that there should be a proper review of the entire activities and performance of the ONGC in West Bengal so that the indications of oil and hydrocarbons can be made available by the application of the most sophisticated technology. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to set up an expert committee to go into the entire functioning of the ONGC operations in West Bengal and allocate proper funds in the Eighth Five Year Plan?

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Regarding the Expert Committee, the hon. Member has met me and also the Chairman, ONGC. He has given some suggestions and we are looking into them.

Harnessing of Alternative Sources of Energy

*46. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to switch over to alternative sources of energy in a big way in view of the Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken and the estimated quantum of energy proposed to be saved/conserved/produced by switching on to alternative sources of energy and the total amount allocated in the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose;

(c) whether adequate funds have been provided to tap these sources of energy during the current year;

(d) whether the Government would resort to use of compressed natural gas cylinders wherever possible; and

(e) the scope of using compressed natural gas in South-Eastern Coal fields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited and other subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and the measures taken/proposed to be taken for utilisation of natural gas in Coal Sector?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) The Government have taken measures for the development and utilisation of alternative sources of energy to the extent possible.

(b) The measures taken include implementation of the National Programmes on Biogas Development and Improved Chulhas, utilisation of solar and wind energy, development of mini/micro hydel power, and development of alternative fuels. Measures to conserve energy have also been taken. As a result, an estimated equivalent of over 100 lakh tonnes of fuel wood is being saved per year. In addition, over 65 million units of electricity have been fed to the State Grid under the Wind Energy programme.

The 8th Plan not yet been finalised.

(c) Adequate funds have been provided keeping in view the availability of resources and the requirements of other sectors of economy.

(d) measures are being taken to develop the use of compressed natural gas in the transport sector.

(e) Coal India Limited have not found the proposal to use liquified natural gas for operation of heavy earth moving machinery to be economically viable.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Sir, I would like to know from the Government the following:

In view of the crisis, now one thing has come out and that is unless we go in for alternate sources of energy, we will not become self-reliant as far as energy is concerned. There is also paucity of resource. What is the policy of the Government to invest in major alternate sources of energy? The top-most being solar energy, next comes wind energy and now, it is solar energy like bio-gas, molasses. Even for petrol in the country like Brazil, it has been seen that it can be used as a substitute for petrol and diesel.

So, I would like to know as to what are the plans which the Government has and what is the investment which they are going to do in the Eighth Five Year Plan to encourage the use of alternate perennial sources of energy...

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): MR. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of the Honourable Member is concerned, I am giving the requisite information. In view of the oil shortage created by the Gulf crisis, we would like to exploit all the available sources of energy and to make the optimum utilisation thereof to meet the increasing energy requirements of the country. I would like to give you an

important information. The first wind energy plant with a generating capacity of 10 MWP has been installed at Mawa. This is the biggest wind operated power plant in Asia. As regards the availability of solar heat in this country to meet internal shortage of electricity, we stand at number two whereas Israel tops the list. Government of India is seriously thinking of making use of the solar energy. The Government proposes to make the optimum utilization of solar energy to meet the increasing power requirements of the country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, A solar energy project with a generation capacity of 30 megawatt had been sanctioned for Rajasthan during my tenure as a Minister. It was proposed to be set up with German and Japanese collaboration. I would like to know the latest position in respect of this project and the action proposed to be taken by the Government. As soon as the first solar energy project is installed in the country, it will be followed by many such projects. I would like to know the time by which this project is likely to be completed.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point is that such a solar energy plant is to be installed at Makania in Rajasthan. It was proposed when you were in the Cabinet. They are working on this project. It will be started in the near future. We want the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone of this important project and I would like to invite all the hon'ble Members on the occasion. They should also try to identify some particular project which can do maximum good to the nation.

[English]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: While replying to part (c) of the question, the Minister has replied: "Adequate funds have been provided keeping in view the availability of resources and the requirements of other sectors of economy." I would like to know how much amount are you going to spend this year? The part (d) of my question is what are the measures being taken to develop the use of compressed natural gas in the trans-

port sector? So, I would like to know about the exact measures being taken by the Ministry in this regard. Then I would also like to know the exact amount you are going to spend this year.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: The exact amount to be provided for this project would be known to you when the budget is presented here. (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: It is about the annual plan; it has nothing to do with the annual Budget. We have a right to know about the measures which are being adopted. These replies are vague. I have asked a specific question and I want a specific reply from the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: So far as the annual plan is concerned, it has nothing to do with it. I will send my reply to the Honourable Member. (Interruptions)

So far as the development conventional sources of gas is concerned, the financial allocation likely to be made for the same would be indicated at the time of the budget for the coming year.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: He has not replied to part (d) of the question—what specific measures are being taken to develop the use of compressed natural gas in the transport sector?"

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: As regards the question of the sources of natural gas, we have both types of gases, i.e. assistance gas and the free gas and we are trying to make use of both the gases.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has come to understand it but he has not been able to say anything about the specific?

(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why has he not able to say anything about the specific?

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: If he wants to know about the 'Chulha and solar gas and bio-gas, I can tell him about it and the point of natural gas has no concern with D.N.E.S. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: About part (d) of the question, it was asked by Mr. Vasant Sathe, whether the Government would resort to use of compressed natural gas cylinders wherever possible. And the reply is: "Measures are being taken to develop the use of compressed natural gas in the transport sector."

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to have information regarding the specific measures. But the hon'ble Minister shall have to find out the facts before he comes out with his reply.

[English]

You have right to extract answer from the Minister. Let him also find it out.

[Translation]

If you are insisting on it, he will come fully prepared for it after the necessary homework. So please be seated.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Please allow to hold-on the question.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: There is no point to hold on the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister may give the specific information to the Hon'ble Member later on.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: First the Hon'ble Member shall have to know the difference between the natural gas and the bio-gas. So far as the natural gas is concerned, we can utilise it and convert it into another form of energy. How can it be developed as a substitute for petroleum products and diesel....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM GANESH KAPSE: Sir, I am not getting the specific information with regard to the reply to the main question

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble member wants to have specific reply with regard to the information given with reply for the main question. The Hon'ble Minister may give it later on *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM GANESH KAPSE: Please ask the Minister to hold on the question and to come out with a proper reply later on.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: I would like to tell the Hon'ble Member that this question pertains to gas and not to the D.M.S. We are utilising the entire gas available with us. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He should give the specific reply to indicate as to what were the reasons.

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: I have already said that this question does not pertain to D.M.S. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: I would like to refer to all the replies given by the Minister in today's Question Hour. For many questions, the replies are vague and the

Ministers are not coming prepared and so we have a right. You please protect us.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: The hon. Member has no right to make such comments. I just want to tell him that my answers to the first two questions have satisfied all Hon. Members. Everyone is satisfied also with the questions which the Hon. Members have asked now. (Interruptions) You are confusing gas with bio-gas.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Did you take adequate measures? The Hon. Member wants to know.

SHRI RAM NAIK: You hold on the question.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: It is not a matter of holding on the question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, it is not a question relating to bio-gas, but you may give a specific reply to the Hon. Member's question later on.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Since the question relates to alternative sources of energy, I would like to know from the Minister what his Government proposes to do about a specific proposal that has been submitted to the Government several years ago to set up sea solar power stations on the sea coast, especially I think Tamil Nadu sea coast was found very suitable. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

I know that he is an expert on the Sati energy.

[English]

Even in his department experts and scientists say that this power station is not being set up due to lack of political will and due to the vested interests that are preventing this kind of alternative sources of energy from being developed within our country. I would like the Minister to say whether he has got the necessary political will to follow through such projects and whether they are thinking of taking steps to set up such sea solar energy projects or not. He has experts on Sati energy, I know. But I hope he will consider this and will give a proper reply.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know if there is any vested interest which is creating an obstacle.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: There is no such thing as vested interest in this matter. I would request the Hon. Member to refrain from jumping to imaginary conclusions. The Government will definitely take steps so that national interests are safeguarded. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Subhashini, it would be better if you ask your question again. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yadav, please sit down. You too, Shri Lodha.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He has not understood the question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI: Sir, perhaps the Hon. Minister's concentration is broken because I mentioned the issue of Sati.

My question is very specific. A proposal had been sent to the Government several years ago that the Tamil Nadu coastline has been found most suitable for setting up power-stations to produce energy from tidal waves and sunlight. Has the proposal to set up a solar-plant there been sent to the Central Government? Are our scientists of the opinion that some vested interests are creating impediments in the implementation of this project? May I know from the Hon. Minister as to what is the Government's stand in this matter?

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI: Sir, such proposals have been received in respect of producing electricity from tidal wavers. Scientists have done research work in this area but it is proving to be very costly. Therefore our Department is considering it and studying methods to reduce costs. We are looking into the matter.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Import of Petroleum and Petroleum Products from Gulf Countries

*42. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of annual imports of petroleum products from Kuwait, Iraq and other Gulf countries during the last three years;

(b) the quantity received during 1990-91;

(c) whether imports have been adversely affected due to the Gulf war; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to make good the shortage caused due to the Gulf war?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Import of petroleum products is done both under term contracts with various national oil companies as well as through spot purchases. Spot purchases are not always done from specific countries. Therefore it is not possible to give country-wise imports of products. Total import of products during 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 was 3.95 MMT, 6.26 MMT and 6.54 MMT respectively.

(b) About 6.68 MMT of petroleum products have been imported during April 1990-January 1991.

(c) and (d). The supplies from Kuwait and Iraq stopped due to the Gulf crisis on 2nd August, 1990. However, arrangements for additional supplies from alternative sources were made to cover the shortfall from Kuwait and Iraq.

Requirement of Petroleum Products

*44. SHRI SHRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of petrol, diesel and kerosene in the country;

(b) the annual domestic production of these commodities and the quantity imported item-wise;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to enhance their production so as to reduce the import bill;

(d) if so, the steps taken in that direction in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) the results achieved thereby?