

period viz., Bahrain, Greece, Indonesia, Iraq, Kuwait, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, U.A.E., U.S.A. and Germany (Federal Republic).

Oil refineries in Seventh Plan

***447. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADI-
YAR ;
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up some more oil refineries in the country;

(b) if so, the particulars of refineries proposed to be set up (including those at Karnal and Mangalore) during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(c) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government had proposed during the 6th Plan the setting up of two grass root refineries at Karnal and Mangalore. However, during the exercises made for financing the 7th Plan, it was found that a constraint on resources was coming in the way of implementation of these refinery projects. As such, these refineries are now being considered for implementation in the joint sector and offers received from various private parties for such joint participation are under examination.

2. In pursuance of the Assam Accord, Government had also agreed, inter alia, "to establish a oil refinery" in Assam. Government will render all possible assistance in terms of institutional and bank finance to facilitate the establishment of a refinery in the private sector." A report of a techno-economic study made on the feasibility of establishing such a refinery is under examination by Government.

Shortage of LPG in Saurashtra

***448. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of LPG in many parts of Gujarat and particularly in Saurashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the regular supply of LPG cylinders to Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. About 17 markets in Gujarat including certain markets of Saurashtra recently developed some backlog in LPG refill supplies due to the following reasons :

(i) Seasonal increase in demand due to winter.

(ii) Urgent maintenance work at Bharat Petroleum Corporation's Bombay Refinery.

(iii) Occasional transportation problems on movement of cylinders from Hindustan Petroleum Corporation's, Bombay Refinery.

(iv) Inadequate bottling at Koyali and Surat Bottling Plants.

(v) Placing of inadequate indents by some distributors.

(c) With Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. augmenting supplies from Bombay and with Bharat Petroleum Corporation's maintenance work having been completed, the situation is expected to normalise soon.

Loss of electricity due to thefts

***449. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :