

Setting UP of Petro-Chemical Projects Based on Bombay High Gas

*14. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is taking urgent steps to set up new petro-chemical projects in the country based on Bombay High Gas;

(b) if so, whether Planning Commission has also agreed to provide sufficient funds for setting up Petro-chemical projects in the country during Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, what is the total amount agreed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Govt. have decided in principle to set up two Gas Cracker Petro-chemical Complexes and their down-stream units; one at Usar in Maharashtra and another at Kavas, in Gujarat. Details including production capacity, investment etc. are being finalised.

(b) and (c). Allocation of funds for new Petro-chemical projects during the Sixth Five Year Plan is being finalised.

Shortage of domestic gas cylinders in Madhya Pradesh

*15. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage and growing demand for domestic gas cylinders in Madhya Pradesh State;

(b) what is the total number of domestic gas consumers registered with the Indian Oil Corporation for the Districts of Rajgarh, Guna, Vidisha and Shajapur in Madhya Pradesh State as on 31st December, 1980;

(c) what is the number of agents who cater for the above four districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(d) what is the total number of applications registered for domestic gas cylinders from these four districts of Madhya Pradesh; and

(e) what steps have Government taken to give more domestic gas connections and new agents for these four districts of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). At present there is no marketing of cooking gas by the oil companies at Rajgarh, Guna and Shajapur districts. However, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPC) has a dealer at Vidisha, with 1060 customers. There are about 1700 applications registered for gas connections pending with this HPC distributor as on 31-12-80.

(e) Rajgarh, Guna and Shajapur districts have been included in the LPG (cooking gas) marketing plan of oil companies for 1981-82.

Permission to foreign oil companies for oil exploration

*16. SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT: SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to the foreign oil companies to carry out oil explorations in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries which have been entrusted the work of oil explorations;

(c) whether these countries have put any condition for exploration;

(d) whether Government have decided/selected the areas in the country where these foreign companies

would carry out oil exploration work; and

(e) if so, the names of these areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) No, Sir. Not yet. However, the Government has decided to invite offers from competent experienced foreign oil companies for oil exploration in selected areas in the country.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Government has selected 32 blocks in 13 basins for inviting offers from competent experienced companies for oil exploration.

(e) Names of the areas selected for oil exploration by foreign parties:—

	<i>No. of Block</i>
ONSHORE :	
(1) J&K & Himachal Foothills	1
(2) Bikaner-Nagaur	3
(3) Kutch basin	3
(4) Cauvery onshore	2
(5) Gandak depression	2
(6) Sharda depression	3
(7) UP Foothills	1
	15
OFFSHORE :	
(1) Saurashtra	2
(2) Konkan	3
(3) Lakshwadweep & Kerala	7
(4) Gulf of Mannar	2
(5) Coromandal	1
(6) West Bengal	2
	17
Grand Total :	32

Proposal to revise rate of commission to petroleum dealers

*17. SHRI D. L. BAITHA:
SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to revise rate of commission to the petroleum dealers; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the proposed revised rate and its effect on the general market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Due to the increase in price of petrol and diesel oil, money value of the evaporation loss borne by the dealers and interest charges on financing working capital on stock holdings have increased and the return to the dealers has been affected. Incidental expenditure due to escalation in rental/wages and other such factors has also affected the return.

A decision on the extent of the revision in the rate of commission will be taken shortly. However, the end selling prices are not proposed to be affected since any revision in the commission will be borne by the Oil Industry Pool Accounts.

Shortage of Cooking Gas and Kerosene in Capital

*18. SHRI R. P. YADAV:
SHRI V. KISHORE
CHANDRA S. DEO:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the recent shortage of cooking gas and kerosene supplies in the Capital; and

(b) what action has been taken by the authorities to restore normal supplies?