

suitable site in Gujarat would be selected for setting up a refinery utilising the imports of crude that would be coming to Kandla port ?

SHRI P. C. SETHI : Various sites have been examined and from the point of view of location of the refinery, this will have to be done not only from the point of view of the availability of crude but also from the point of view of consumption. It is easy to carry crude rather than finished products and therefore we will have to locate the refinery in an area which is having importance of consumption.

SHRI JADEJA : I want to know whether you would consider suitable site in Gujarat, because the Committee which had gone into this had even recommended Bombay. So, I want to know whether you would consider Gujarat to be a suitable place or not.

SHRI P. C. SETHI : As far as the western coast is concerned, there are lot of refineries. Therefore the finished products availability is quite enough there. We have to carry the finished products from Bombay to north and north-eastern regions. Therefore, the technical advice is that it would be better to have the refinery located very largely in places where the consumption is more.

MR. SPEAKER : Question hour over.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : rose—

MR. SPEAKER : I have not agreed with any of your suggestions.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : National consensus in this matter should be expressed.

MR. SPEAKER : No, I have not agreed with any of your suggestions. Now, Call Attention.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Purchase and import of crude oil through a separate company

*1052. **SHRI RAJA KULKARNI :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has extended its activities to the import of crude oil and it has registered a separate company for the same ; if so, when and the progress it has made ;

(b) the efforts Government have made to purchase crude at cheaper prices in the International market from the Persian Gulf area ;

(c) the efforts Government have made to have its own Indian fleet of tankers for transportation of imported crude with a view to reduce the cost of imported crude ; and

(d) whether Government are considering the feasibility of pipe-line transportation of imported crude inside our country from ports to all points of inland refineries for reducing the cost of crude ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) :

(a) Indian Oil Corporation has extended its activities to a limited import of crude oil, but not separate company has been registered for the purpose.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government are in correspondence with various parties on the subject with a view to import crude oil for public sector refineries. It is not in public interest to disclose the nature of this correspondence.

(c) Yes, Sir. Two large vessels have been already procured for Madras refinery. Two vessels of the same class are on order for Cochin refinery. Efforts are being made to secure two similar vessels for delivery of crude at the Haldia port. A number of Indian flag vessels have already been chartered to the refineries in Bombay and Visakhapatnam.

(d) Yes, Sir. Government are considering the feasibility of pipe-line transportation of imported crude for the one million tonne capacity at Barauni and for North West and Koyali refineries.