

**Loss in Purchase of Oil from Spot Market**

468. SHRI L.K. ADVANI:  
SHRI SHANKERSINH  
VAGHELA:

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

(a) whether our country has suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 140 crores by not entering into the spot market for purchase of crude oil and petroleum products in the second week of June, 1990;

(b) if so, the action taken against those responsible for the huge loss; and

(c) the policy and guidelines of the Government issued in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (c). We have been purchasing and keeping the imported crude inventory at the maximum containable level right from 1st May 1990 through 1st August, 1990. Therefore, there was no scope

for additional spot purchases. Hence no loss was suffered. Major increase in price was due to Iraq invasion of Kuwait on 2nd August, 1990 which could not be anticipated.

**Production of Crude Oil and Natural Gas**

469. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas and crude oil produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been steady decrease in production; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) The quantity of natural gas and crude oil produced in the country during last three years is below:

Year	Natural (Million Cubic Metres)	Crude oil (Million Tonnes)
1	2	3
1987-88	11467	30.36
1988-89	13217	32.04
1989-90	16989	34.09

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Increase in hopping flights**

470. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: