

[English]

Import of Crude and Petroleum Products

4617. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has negotiated for a co-finance facility for the import of crude and petroleum products;

(b) if so, the organisations and countries with whom such negotiation was held; and

(c) the total amount involved including the mode of repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c). An Indian team visited Manila during November, 1991, for negotiations with the Asian Development Bank for a programme assistance of US \$ 250 million which, inter alia, will assist in financing oil imports. The mode of repayment is half yearly commencing from 15th June, 1995 and ending on 15th December, 2006.

Drilling Activities of ONGC in West Bengal

4618. PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ONGC Field Parties engaged in drilling activities in West Bengal have been recently wound up;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Russian and Indian

experts have pronounced certain districts in West Bengal as having possible rich reserves of oil; and

(d) if so, the reasons for curtailing ONGC activities in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Lignite Deposits in Bhavnagar

4619. DR. MAHAVIRSINH HARISINHJI GOHIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large deposits of lignite have been discovered in Thalsai village of Bhavnagar district in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for its proper exploitation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA-GOUDA): (a) Lignite deposits have been located in Bhavnagar District of Gujarat including in Thalsar village.

(b) There is no plan at present for exploitation of this lignite deposit by the Central Government. However, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, a State Government owned Corporation has applied for mining lease for lignite in this area to the State Government of Gujarat.