

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1165
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2004
STRIKE BY WORKERS OF PUBLIC SECTOR OIL COMPANIES
Murmu Shri Rupchand

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

- (a) whether the workers of public sector oil companies had called a day long strike on 16 December, 2003;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the strike was successful;
- (d) whether the Government propose to meet their demands; and
- (e) if not reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e) : A section of the workers of some of the public sector oil companies participated in a one day Token Strike on 16 December, 2003 in support of the call of the National United Forum against privatisation of oil PSUs. On 13 December, 2003 the then Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued an appeal to the Unions of oil PSUs to call off the strike and to wait for the verdict of the Hon'ble Supreme Court before whom the issue of disinvestment had been placed for deliberation. However, the workers of the oil PSUs went ahead with the strike.

In view of the advance strike notice, operations of vital Installations were managed by the oil companies with the help of management/staff. There was no untoward incident or disruption of supplies reported.

The policy of the Government on disinvestment, as spelt out in the National Common Minimum Programme, states inter alia that existing Navratna companies would be retained in the public sector.