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Title: The Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas laid a statement regarding status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on Demands for Grants (2007-08), pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of direction 73A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin –Part II dated September 1, 2004.

The Fourteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 26.4.2007. The Report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2007-08.

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas on 8.8.2007.

There are 21 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to issues like increasing the exploration and production of oil and natural gas, Reserve accretion, progress made by GAIL, ONGXC and OIL on their respective R&D projects, progress relating to import of natural gas from Myanmar, progress pertaining to Iran-Pakistan India Gas Pipeline Project, fuel quality upgradation projects, effective steps to check diversion of kerosene, automation of

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7481/07

all retail outlets, reforms in taxation of petroleum products including abolition of the ad valorem component in taxes/duties, subsidy on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG, forming a common drilling rig pool for Oil PSUs, adherence to projects schedules by IOC, revival of Biecco Lawrie Ltd., etc.

Present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of House. I would not like to take valuable time of the House by reading out all the contents of this Annexure. This may please be considered as read.

12.05 hrs.