

Plying of Tank Trucks of Oil Companies

1808. SHRI PITAMBER PASWAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Tank Trucks of the oil companies as on December 31, 1998 plying on the roads for bulk LPG transportation, company-wise and zone-wise, separately;

(b) the present requirements of the each oil company of the Tank Trucks, zone-wise and company-wise;

(c) whether the oil companies have engaged Tank Trucks beyond their requirements;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the oil companies are providing adequate preference to SC/ST while engaging their Tank Trucks under the reservation quota, company-wise;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The number of tank/trucks of the oil companies as on 31.12.98 plying on roads for bulk LPG transportation as per their requirement company-wise and zone-wise, are as under:—

Company	Northern/Western Regions	Eastern/Southern Regions
IOC	2388	1833
BPCL	1592	253
HPCL	1226	546

(c) No, Sir. The tank trucks contracted are as per the requirement.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) to (g) Out of the total tank truck requirement, reservation of 15% and 7.5% is made for SC/ST

transporters subject to availability in the tendering process. Only after exhausting the tank trucks made available by SC/ST transporters against reservation the balance requirement of reserved quota is met through general category.

Manufacture Cost of Petroleum Products

1809. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the manufacturing process for Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene involves similar steps and the prices of these products are also almost similar all over the World;

(b) if so, the rationale behind the Government's pricing Petrol more than two-and-half times that of Diesel whereas the ex-refinery price of petrol is Rs. 1.694 per litre and C&F charges at Rs. 640/- kilolitre; and

(c) the reasons of such anomaly in manufacturing and selling cost of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Manufacturing process for Petrol, Diesel and Kerosene are different.

(b) and (c) LPG packed (Domestic) and SKO (PDS) are subsidised petroleum products. Subsidy on petroleum products is not financed through budgetary support but met through Oil Pool Account Mechanism by way of cross subsidisation of products like Motor spirit and Aviation Turbine Fuel.

[Translation]

Solar Thermal Power Station in Bihar

1810. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Bihar Government for setting up a Solar Thermal Power Station in Fatehpur Tekari in Gaya, Bihar; and

(b) if so, the date on which it was received and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Feasibility reports for 2 x 30 MW solar power projects at Gaya and Chakai were received from Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) in May, 1989 and August, 1989 respectively. It has suggested then to BSEB to modify the feasibility reports based on recorded meteorological data for the sites. No further proposal has been received from the State Government.

In the meanwhile, it has been decided to take up an R & D-cum-Demonstration project at village Mathania in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan. Subsequent projects could be considered after the techno-economic viability of the technology is established.

Maheshwar Dam Project

1811. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the agency entrusted with the task of construction of Maheshwar Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(b) the date on which the work commenced on the dam and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Shree Maheshwar Hydel Power Corporation Ltd. has been entrusted with the task of construction of Maheshwar Dam Project in Madhya Pradesh. As per the information provided by the developer, the total expenditure incurred till date is around Rs 300 crores.

(b) The construction on the dam started on October 1, 1997. The project is likely to be completed by 2003.

[English]

Breast Feeding

1812. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies conducted by National Coordination Breast Feeding Network of India (BFNI) and other experts have confirmed that breastfed children are

healthier and less prone to infections in comparison to bottle-fed children; and

(b) if so, the steps taken and proposed to be taken by the Government for aggressive promotion of breast-feeding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Government are not aware of any organisation called National Coordination Breastfeeding Network of India (BFNI). However, the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) have confirmed that many studies conducted by various experts prove that breastfed children are healthier and less prone to infections in comparison to bottle fed children.

(b) Steps for promotion of breastfeeding in the country include implementation of the Infant Milk Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992; awareness programmes on the benefits of breastfeeding; training of health workers on breastfeeding; and implementation of the Baby Friendly hospital Initiative.

[Translation]

Cases of Irregularities during Election

1813. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases pertaining to irregularities committed during the election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are pending in various High Courts and in Supreme Court of India in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases pending by the end of December, 1998;

(c) the year of the election to Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly to which each of the said case is related;

(d) whether delay in giving the decision in such cases makes the whole exercise infructuous; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard?