

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3869
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19TH MARCH, 2018

BILATERAL MEETING WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES

3869. ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:

पैट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- a) whether the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) along with delegations comprising CEOs of Public Sector Oil and Gas companies have visited various countries in the year 2017 and if so, the details thereof along with the details of expenditure incurred on the said foreign visits by MoPNG during the last two years and the current year;
- b) whether the MoPNG have conducted bilateral meetings with Petroleum Ministers from Canada, UAE, Israel, USA, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Russia etc. and if so, the details thereof along with the major co-operative ventures and agreements signed during the above visits along with their present status;
- c) whether an interaction meeting was held recently with experts and global oil and gas Chief Executives and if so, the details and outcome thereof along with the follow-up taken/action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- d) whether the MoPNG also interacted with Indian origin scientists and CEOs working in the oil and gas sector abroad and Indian community members regarding Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in oil and gas sector in India; and
- e) if so, details thereof along with the major outcome of the said initiative?

ANSWER

पैट्रो लयम और प्राकृतिक मंत्री (श्री धर्मन्द्र प्रधान)

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

- a) As part of India's energy diplomacy, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas visits various countries where India has engagements/interests in oil and gas sector. Depending on the nature of our engagements, select CEOs of Public Sector Oil and Gas companies accompany Minister during the visits. During

2017 Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Myanmar, USA, Austria, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Japan and Thailand and held official meetings with his counterparts. Expenditure in respect of Minister was borne by Government of India and the expenditure in respect of CEO of oil and gas PSUs was borne by the concerned PSUs. During the visits Minister also shared the recent policy reforms that have taken place in the oil and gas sector and the opportunities for related investments infrastructure development.

- b) Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas held meetings with his counterparts, including from Canada, UAE, Israel, USA, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Russia, etc. at bilateral and multilateral venues. In the last one year, India has signed Memorandum of Understandings with Israel, Belarus, Indonesia, Japan and Canada for enhancing cooperation in the oil and gas sector.
- c) In October 2017, NITI Aayog had organised Prime Minister's interaction with experts and CEOs of global oil and gas companies in New Delhi. During the interaction they, *inter-alia*, discussed issues pertaining to cooperation between producers and consumers, need for research and innovation in the areas related to bio-fuel, Coal Bed Methane and coal gasification technologies and technology transfer.
- d) &(e) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas has set up an International Think Tank comprising persons of Indian origin who have reached eminent positions in oil and gas sector, representatives from research organisations, universities and international financial institutions. The Think Tank discussed areas in which it could assist the Ministry in Policy formulation, including to attract FDI in the sector, increase contribution of gas in the energy mix, skill development in the hydrocarbon sector, promotion of R&D to serve Indian oil and gas sector, incorporate global best practices and expand India's portfolio of hydrocarbon assets overseas.
