

Speech for Hon'ble Governor of Assam for inauguration of Saksham-2018 a month-long awareness campaign for conservation of petroleum products in the State of Assam

A very good morning to all of you.

Friends,

As we are all working for double digit economic growth for the country, the energy demand is bound to grow at similar pace. The country's source of energy basket which grossly constitutes petroleum products, is also diminishing at fast rate. While we are recognizing and adopting measures to increase our dependency on renewable energy sources, the demand for petroleum products as source of energy is still growing. India has huge deficit in crude oil production level compared to its consumption pattern. As per figures of 2016-17, the country consumed about 194.2 million metric tons (MMT) of petroleum products and the Indian Refineries processed about 245.4 MMT of crude oil against an installed combined capacity of 230 million metric tons per annum. However, these figures are hugely offset by the fact that our crude oil production was merely 36 million metric tons in the same year. Thus we are depending heavily on import of crude oil to the extent of little over 81 per cent of overall requirement for meeting the energy demand of the country.

The sharp rise and volatility of prices of crude oil in the international markets since 2004 has become a matter of global concern. Import of crude oil during 2016-17 was 213 million metric tons valued at about Rs 4.7 lakh crore.

- Drop in global prices of crude oil seen since September 2014 can be attributed to weakening of demand in economies of Asia, especially China, and Europe in addition to a production surplus. Further, exploration of shale gas by countries like the United States and Canada to reduce their dependence on oil imports has led to lower demand of oil.

Our country's import bill is high and always dependent on global crude oil prices, rupee depreciation as well as rise in domestic consumption. However, sufficient refining output has reduced import dependency on petroleum products and the country has been able to export finished products to contain the foreign exchange deficit to a little extent.

It is also pertinent on my part to share with you that it has become imperative for all of us to devise ways and means of reducing our dependence on imported energy. Towards this end, the Government has formulated various plans and strategies to considerably enhance availability of proprietary oil & gas, both from within and outside the country.

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Govt. of India has been actively associated in promoting energy conservation efforts in the country since 1978. Over the past 30 years PCRA has helped consumers in different sectors such as Transport, Industry, Agriculture and household to realize energy conservation to a great extent.

PCRA and Public Sector Oil & Gas companies are undertaking intensive conservation awareness campaigns among the masses throughout the country from 16th Jan 2018 through a month-long campaign which is really commendable.

- At the same time, I also appeal to all concerned to actively participate in this great cause and transform this campaign into our way of life.

I am happy to hereby inaugurate this month-long awareness campaign namely **संरक्षण क्षमता महोत्सव-2018** or **सक्षम-2018** for the State of Assam today. I compliment the entire Oil Industry for organizing “**सक्षम -2018**” and wish it a grand success.

Thank you and Jai Hind