

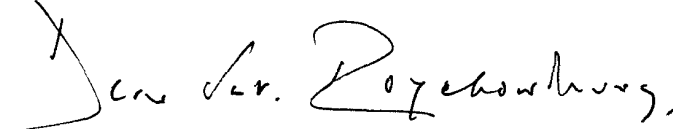


मणि शंकर अय्यर
MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

मंत्री
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस और
पंचायती राज
भारत सरकार
नई दिल्ली-110 001
Minister
Petroleum & Natural Gas and
Panchayati Raj
Government of India
New Delhi-110 001

No. R-23014/3/2005-OR.I/F-10248

16 June, 2005



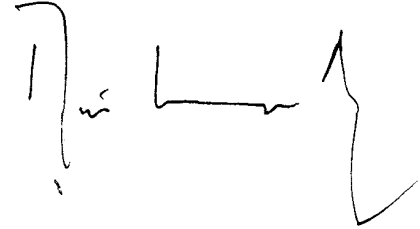
Please refer to your letter dated 28.3.2005 regarding the use of Methycyclopentadienyl Manganese Tricarbonyl (MMT) in petrol by the oil companies in India.

I appreciate the concerns raised by your organisation that MMT forms manganese particles when it burns as petrol additive, which can be a potent neurotoxin when inhaled and also damages the emission control system of vehicles. I also share your views that the health of the people of our country is of prime importance. Even if MMT is a low cost octane enhancer, its use in petrol needs to be discontinued in the interest of the community.

In this context, I have got the reports from our Oil PSUs. I have been informed that except for Numaligrh Refinery Limited (NRL), which uses marginal quantities of MMT as a trimming agent for a marginal increase in the octane number of Motor Spirit, other Public Sector Oil refineries are not using MMT any more. You will be glad to learn that NRL too will discontinue the use of MMT by March 2006, by when the new facilities being set up by them for producing Motor Spirit are expected to be completed.



Yours sincerely,



Smt. Anumita Roychowdhury,
Associate Director (R&A),
Centre for Science & Environment,
Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi.