CONTENTS

Chapter	Paragraph	Title	Page No.
		Preface	iii
		Overview	iv
1		Petroleum Sector Profile	1
2		Follow up action on reviews in the last five years' Audit Reports	19
3.		Reviews	30
	3.1	Review on Branching and Capacity augmentation of Pipelines in Northern Region- IOCL	30
	3.2	Review on Arbitration cases-ONGC	38
	3.3	Review on Production sharing contracts with private exploration and production Companies-ONGC	52
4.		Paragraphs on transaction audit observations	73
	4.1	Project Planning and Execution	73
	4.1.1	Loss due to recommending incorrect specifications- EIL	73
	4.1.2	Infructuous expenditure in replacement of pipeline-IOCL	74
	4.1.3	Infructuous expenditure due to wrong estimation of demand- IOCL	75
	4.1.4	Infructuous expenditure due to defective planning and decision making- IOCL	76
	4.1.5	Infructuous expenditure on idle computerised loading facilities- IOCL	77
	4.1.6	Loss due to avoidable flaring of gas- ONGC	78
	4.2	Asset Acquisition and Utilisation	80
	4.2.1	Idle investment due to unrealistic assessment of requirement-BPCL	80
	4.2.2	Infructuous expenditure on development of land-BPCL	81
	4.2.3	Avoidable expenditure due to offloading of bitumen filling work while keeping in house facility idle-HPCL	82
	4.2.4	Avoidable expenditure due to delay in surrender of land- IBP	83
	4.2.5	Blockage of funds due to acquisition of unsuitable land- IBP	84
	4.2.6	Extra expenditure due to delay in surrendering vacant	85

i

	4.3.1	Infructuous expenditure on a single exploratory well-	89
	4.3.2	ONGC Infructuous expenditure due to negligence in measuring length of casing pipes- ONGC	90
	4.4	Production Performance	92
	4.4.1	Supply of sub-standard material and resultant loss-BPCL	92
	4.5	Contract Management	93
	4.5.1	Avoidable expenditure due to contracting more demand than required- GAIL	93
	4.5.2	Failure to supply necessary inputs to the contractor-HPCL	94
	4.5.3	Avoidable loss in hiring of tank- IBP	95
	4.5.4	Loss due to award of a contract to an incompetent party-ONGC	96
	4.6	Statutory Levies	98
	4.6.1	Failure to avail of the benefits of excise duty exemption- BRPL	98
	4.6.2	Avoidable payment of sales tax- BRPL	99
	4.6.3	Delay in availing of customs duty exemption resulting in blocking up of borrowed funds- HPCL	100
	4.6.4	Avoidable expenditure on purchase tax- IOCL	102
	4.6.5	Failure to avail zero custom duty benefit- ONGC	103
	4.6.6	Non-availing customs duty benefit- ONGC	104
	4.7	Marketing and Credit Policy	105
	4.7.1	Undue favour to a customer- BPCL	105
	4.7.2	Loss due to extension of unsecured credit facility-HPCL	106
	4.7.3	Non-realisation of dues towards sale of natural gas- ONGC	107
	4.8	Entitlement	111
	4.8.1	Indiscriminate payment of overtime allowance- IOCL	111
5.		Reviews on IT Audit	113
	5.1	Re-engineering project (Manthan)- IOCL	113
	5.2	Payroll Application in Mumbai Region-ONGC	134
6.		Corporate Governance in Oil PSUs	142
		Annexures	146

PREFACE

A reference is invited to the prefatory remarks in the Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India – Union Government (Commercial) No. 1 of 2005 where a mention was made that reviews on the performance of Companies/ Corporations by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India are presented in separate Reports. This Report for the year ended March 2004 has been prepared incorporating the audit findings noticed during transaction audit of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the Petroleum Sector. The following PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are covered in the Report:

- 1. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL);
- 2. Bieco Lawrie and Company Limited (BLC)
- 3. Bongaigaon Refineries and Petrochemicals Limited (BRPL);
- 4. Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL);
- 5. Engineers India Limited (EIL);
- 6. GAIL India Limited (GAIL);
- 7. Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Limited (GGSR);
- 8. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL);
- 9. IBP Company Limited (IBP);
- 10. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL);
- 11. Kochi Refineries Limited (KRL);
- 12. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL)
- 13. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC);
- 14. Oil India Limited (OIL);
- 15. ONGC Videsh Limited (ONGC Videsh).

Important audit findings noticed as a result of test check of transactions carried out by the PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, conducted by the officers of the C&AG of India during 2003-04 and earlier years wherever relevant and also early part of 2004-05 under Section 619(3)(b) of the Companies Act, 1956 are included in this Report.

31 draft paragraphs and five reviews were forwarded to the Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for furnishing their replies. Replies to 20 paragraphs and four reviews were not received from the Ministry.