

(Figs. In MMTs)

Name of Company	Total
ONGC	28.77
Oil India Limited	3.50
DGH (for Pvt./JVs) Project	625

Abnormal increase in petroleum

1186. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

the details of the price hike in petrol and petroleum products during each of the last three years;

the percentage of increase in retail price of petrol, diesel and other petroleum products during this period, product-wise;

whether Government had taken into account the innumerable suffering of the masses due to increase in price-hike of petroleum products:

if so, the details thereof; and

the reasons for abnormal increase in prices of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) the details of increase/decrease in the prices of Petrol and Diesel (at Delhi) during the last three years *w.e.f.* 01.04.05 alongwith percentage are given below:

Date	Petrol Rs./Ltr.	%change over previous	Diesel Rs./Ltr.	%change over previous
01.04-05 (VAT implemented at Delhi)	37.99	-	2822	-
04.05.05 (reduction of VAT on HSD)	-	-	26.45	-627
21.06.05	40.49	6.58	28.45	7.56
07.09.05	43.49	7.41	30.45	7.03
01.04.06	43.51	0.05	30.47	0.07
06.06.06	47.51	9.19	32.47	6.56
21.06.06 (reduction in VAT rate)	46.85	-139	3225	0.68
30.11.06	44.85	427	3125	-3.10
16.02.07	42.85	-4.46	3025	-320
06.06.07 (tax rebate on VAT for Petrol and Diesel withdrawn)	43.52	1.56	30.48	0.76
08.02.08 (pollution cess on diesel in Delhi)		-	30.76	0.92
15.02.08	45.52	4.60	31.76	325

Despite the steep increase in international oil prices, the Government has not increased the prices of PDS kerosene during the last six years and domestic LPG over the last three years.

(c) to (e) The international oil prices have been on consistently upward trend since 2003-04. Each year, annual oil prices have averaged more than those prevailing during the previous year. Indian basket of crude oil, which average about \$ 23/bbl at the time of dismantling of APM in March 2002 and \$36 bbl in May 2004, averaged about \$62.5/bbl during 2006-07. The price of Indian basket of crude oil during Feb' 08 (up to 29th) is \$92.37/bbl and average during the current year April 07-29th February' 08) is \$77.44/bbl.

As passing on the entire impact of the steep increase in the oil prices to the consumers would have resulted in hardship to the common man, the retail selling prices of sensitive petroleum products namely petrol, diesel, PDS Kerosene and domestic LPG have not been increased in tandem with the international oil prices. The Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are, as such, incurring under-recoveries on domestic sale of these sensitive petroleum products. To deal with the steep escalation in international oil prices, the Government has adopted the principle of equitable burden sharing between the Government the oil PSUs and consumers to protect the interest of common man, vulnerable sections of society and also the financial health of OMCs.

In this context, the Government has made a marginal increase in petrol and diesel prices by Rs. 2/litre and Re. 1/litre respectively with effect from 15.2.2008, which is actually in the nature of a restoration of retail prices of these products to the price level operating before February, 2007. The Government has issued Oil Bonds and the Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed by offering discount on crude oil and petroleum products to partially compensate the under-recoveries of OMCs. The Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

Meetings regarding Indo-Iran gas pipeline

1187. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

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

the reasons for the continued absence of India at the India-Pakistan-Iranian pipeline meetings at Islamabad and its silence over Iranian move for trilateral talks in Tehran;

whether it is a fact that Pakistan is insisting on transit charges for transport of gas; and

if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Iran proposed to hold the Seventh Trilateral Meeting of Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project in Tehran in September 2007 and, subsequently, a meeting of the Oil Ministers of Iran, Pakistan and India in Tehran in February 2008. Government examined the proposals and it was decided that it would be necessary to have a bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan before having the trilateral meetings, as