

(d) The private sector oil companies are free to take pricing decisions on commercial considerations and they are not covered under the subsidy sharing mechanism as per the Government Resolution of 8th March, 2008.

Oil and gas requirement

1670. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the quantity of crude, gas and other petroleum products imported from 1 April, 2007 to 31 March, 2008;
- (b) what was the expenditure incurred in terms of foreign exchange both in US Dollar and equivalent Indian Rupee;
- (c) the percentage of our oil and gas requirement which was met from imports during financial year 2007-08; and
- (d) the percentage of indigenous production as compared to imported quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The quantity of crude oil, gas and other petroleum products imported during 2007-08 are given below :

Product	Quantity (TMT)
Crude oil	121672
Gas-LNG	8250
Petroleum products	22716

(b) The expenditure incurred is as under:

Products	\$ Million	Rs. Crore
Crude oil	67988	272699
Gas-LNG	2296	9399
Petroleum products	15255	61504

(c) The percentage of oil and gas requirement met from imports is as under :

Crude oil:	80%	Gas-LNG:	26%
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(d) The percentage of oil and gas requirement met from indigenous production is as under:

Crude oil:	20%	Gas-LNG:	74%
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Freezing of new LPG connections

1671. SHRI K. E. ISMAIL :

SHRI R. C. SINGH :

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the direction given by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to the distributors in various States to freeze new LPG connections and curtail disbursements of booked LPG cylinders;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether there is an actual shortage of LPG in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not stopped release of new LPG connections. New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. At present, new LPG connections are available for genuine domestic customers and as on 01.11.2008, there are 1036.9 lakh LPG customers in the country.

OMCs have reported that they have released 25.64 lakh new LPG connections in the country during the period April-October, 2008.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported backlog in LPG supplies in the States of Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu mainly because of spurt in demand due to the economic blockade in Manipur, transporter agitation and various bandhs in Kerala and heavy rains in most parts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

Supply of naptha for power generation in Kerala

1672. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are many plants based on Naptha and Low Sulphur High Speed (LSHS) for power generation in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the details of above fuels supplied to above plants including price of fuel, excise duty on fuel, quantity of fuel and the actual cost of fuel per unit power generated for the last three years, year-wise, plant-wise, fuel-wise, category-wise;
- (c) if so, whether competent authority of Kerala had represented during May, 2007 to provide Naptha and LSHS and for power generation at an affordable price and exempt excise duty Countervailing Duties (CVD) for these fuel for power generation;
- (d) if so, the action taken thereon; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of natural gas

†1673. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi