

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : During Zero Hour I cannot compel the Government...(Interruptions)... It is over now...(Interruptions)... Now the next time, the Calling Attention...(Interruptions)...

डा. राम प्रकाश : सर, हमें भी अपनी बात कहने का मौका दीजिए ...(व्यवधान)...

**CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER TO
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Availability of Natural Gas for power generation and other national priorities at affordable price
throughout the country**

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (WEST BENGAL) : Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to the availability of Natural Gas for power generation and other national priorities at affordable price throughout the country.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA) : Sir, the production and supply of natural gas started in a major way in the country with the commissioning of the Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) line by GAIL in the year 1987. However, with no major discovery of gas for several years, the demand far outstripped the availability. The first step towards bridging the gap between demand and supply of natural gas was taken when the country embarked on an accelerated programme of exploration and production through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding rounds in 1999.

Till the year 2008, the domestic availability of natural gas in the country was 105 million metric standard cubic metres per day (mmscmd), of which about 28 mmscmd was through import of LNG. Against this, the estimated demand of natural gas was around 197 mmscmd. With the commencement of gas production from KG D-6 fields and increased import potential of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), the gap between demand and supply has come down.

As on 31.3.2009, the domestic availability of gas in the country was 105 mmscmd, out of which about 53 mmscmd was produced from nominated fields given to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), 24 mmscmd from pre-NELP fields operated by various Contractors, and 28 mmscmd was imported gas in the form of LNG. Out of this, about 40 mmscmd gas was being supplied to power sector, about 30 mmscmd to fertilizer sector and 5 mmscmd for city gas distribution projects.

From 1.4.2009, production of gas from KG D-6 block has started. Presently, 35 mmscmd gas is being produced. Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) was constituted for finalizing the price formula as was required under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and to finalise the Gas Utilisation Policy. The intention of the Government being to operationalize all gas based assets which were lying idle/unutilized due to non-availability of gas, the EGoM decided the distribution of the first 40 mmscmd from the block as follows :-

15 mmscmd to existing gas-based Fertilizer Sector

18 mmscmd to existing gas-based Power Sector

5 mmscmd to City Gas Sector

3 mmscmd for existing gas-based LPG plants.

EGoM further decided that any shortfall in utilization should be allocated to gas-based steel plants and to existing power plants, including captive power plants.

With the commencement of KG-D-6 production, over 100 mmscmd gas is being supplied to power and fertilizer sectors out of a total supply of 140 mmscmd. As a result of KG-D-6 supplies, about 4000 Megawatt (MW) of additional power is being generated and an annual saving in subsidy on fertilizer of Rs. 3000 crore will be achieved.

The gas at Administrated Price Mechanism (APM) prices, which is produced from Government nominated fields, has been priced at about \$ 2 per million metric British thermal unit (mmbtu), except in North East, where it is \$ 1 to \$ 1.2/mmbtu. The prices of gas from pre-NELP fields have been approved in accordance with the Production Sharing Contracts for such fields and are in the range of \$ 3.5 to 5.73/mmbtu. Field-wise prices are at Annexure to my Statement. The price of gas from imported Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) in respect of term contracts is over \$ 5/mmbtu. The spot price, however, varies from time to time. Under the NELP PSC, it was the requirement that a price formula based arm's length basis be approved prior to sale of gas. The formula submitted by the Contractor of KG-D6 block was considered by the EGoM. It was subjected to further examination by a Committee under the Cabinet Secretary and by Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister. Having considered the Report, the EGoM approved the price formula in its meeting held on 12.09.2007. The formula is linked to crude price and is based on arm's length principle. It leads to a price of 4.2\$/mmbtu at a crude price of 60\$/bbl or above. At a crude price of 25\$/bbl, it leads to a price of 2.5\$/mmbtu and for crude price ranging between \$ 25-60/bbl, it varies between 2.5 to 4.2\$/mmbtu.

This price formula is fixed for a period of 5 years. The price of gas being made available to the priority sectors is substantially lower the prevailing prices of alternate liquid fuels like Naphtha.

8. To make available the natural gas in all regions of the country, the Government has authorized several entities for laying gas pipelines to transport natural gas from the production centres to the potential consumers. As announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech, the Government proposes to develop a blueprint for long distance gas highways leading to a National Gas Grid. This would facilitate transportation of gas across length and breadth of the country.

9. A study to consider the feasibility of having a uniform cost price regime is being undertaken, the report of which is expected to be made available within 3 months.

10. I would like to inform the august House that the scenario of natural gas in the country has undergone a change for the better. The Government has awarded 203 blocks under NELP for exploration of oil and gas with a view to access investment and better technology. An investment of \$ 11.97 billion has already been made under NELP. I am confident that natural gas would fuel the economic growth of the country and Government will do all in its power to ensure its use for national priorities at reasonable prices.

Annexure

Source	Customers	Approx Qty (in mmscmd)	Gas pipe
PMT	All except RRVUNL & torrent	14.8	5.65
	RRVUNL	1.5	4.6
	Torrent	1	4.75
	Weighted Average PMT Price	17.3	5.51
Raavva	GAIL	1	3.5
Ravva Satellite	GAIL	0.9	4.3
Lakshmi (CB-OS/2)	GGCL & GPCL	2.5	4.75

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I request the hon. Members to be brief, because there are about 20 Members who sought permission for seeking clarifications. So, it will be only pointed clarifications, not 3 or 4 or 5. It will be restricted, because we have started at 1.24 minutes and it should be completed by 2.24 minutes. One hour has been given for this Calling Attention Motion. I would also like to inform the House that there is no lunch today.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Thank you Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. Even though the hon. Minister has presented a detailed picture, some of the important issues, which appears to be the crux of the whole issue, have been missing in the statement. The entire policy architecture of the Government of India of the day, on the natural gas, has landed the whole country in such a fuss that almost 70 per cent -- if you really recognise that KG Basin is going to be the single biggest reserve of natural gas of our country in the days to come -- is being allowed and such a situation has developed to become a kind of personal reserve of some private contractors. This has created such a serious position that a number of expansion projects, in power, have been put on hold. A 2700 MW expansion project of the NTPC has been put on hold because of the absence of assured linkage of gas.

Similarly, many of the gas-based power plants are being compelled to operate at a low plant load factor. The revival of the fertilizer plants, on which the Cabinet had given, in principle, approval, is still waiting because there is no assured gas linkage. Public transport system is being deprived of using the natural gas. It is also creating the problem of pollution and different other problems. So, in view of that, and in view of the experience that has cropped up, which is being widely discussed in the media, will the Government consider -- I have already raised in this House that it is important that natural gas, which is a national asset as per the Constitution -- and take an urgent step on a war-footing to take over and nationalise the distribution and marketing of the gas at the wellhead so that it can properly be allocated according to the national priority, and the national priority will not be subjected to *by the private producer...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan) : Sir, * is an unparliamentary word.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Okay, it will be expunged.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, my second point is, why this issue has come up ...*(Interruptions)* Okay, no problem, Bagrodiaji. My second point is how this thing has come about. If it is a national property and a private explorer is exploring as per the NELP contracts, the distribution of this cannot be decided by the contractor himself. But this thing has happened. A private contractor had entered into an MoU in June 2005 to distribute 70 per cent of the gas of the KG Basin with two private entities. And, this was not objected to. Although these entities had written to the Ministry of Petroleum and to the Government about that in the year 2006 itself...*(Interruptions)*... During that material time in May 2006 a respected Member of this House, my colleague, Late Chittabrata Majumdar, from my party, had also written to the Government urging to stop this game of personalisation of the national asset through the private MoU. The Government, practically, woke up much late after four years, and, no doubt, we welcome the assertion that while intervening it has

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

been told that it is a national asset. So, we demand to please utilize it as a national asset and establish your ownership on it by taking over distribution and marketing instead of playing a role of a mediator between the two corporates. This is not the role of the Government. This is not the role of an owner of the national assets.

My third point is regarding pricing. This is a national asset which should be utilized for the country's development and its pricing should be rationale. A price was discovered at the invitation of a Government entity, that is, the NTPC. International competitive bidding was there. The price was discovered at 2.34 dollars per MMBTU in 2004, at the wellhead. And, at the delivering point the price was 2.97 dollars in 2004. So, my next question is this. On what wisdom this price was changed and allowed the private contractor to ditch the Government entity power generation utility - NTPC who are doing yeomen service to the nation by generating power. The private contractor has been allowed to ditch even after participating in the international competitive bidding process, based on the draft GSPA. They had accepted that. The NTPC had issued the letter of intent in June 2004 itself. *(Time bell rings)* They had accepted that ...*(Interruptions)*.. In what wisdom had the Government enhanced that price which was arrived at though a transparent competitive international bidding process? That price has been enhanced by 2.5 times to 4.2 dollars. On what basis? The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that it was being proposed by the private contractor and the EGoMs had marginally moderated it from 4.3 to 4.2. What is the basis of this? Fixing the price is basically a techno-economic job. Sir, this is not a job to be done by the Group of Ministers or by a group of politicians. The Government may have played a role by taking a political decision for giving subsidy to moderate that price. But fixing a price has, essentially, enhanced the price against the interests of the priority sector and allowing a windfall profit to a private contractor is not in the national interest...*(Time-bell-rings)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, my last point is with regard to distribution. How is the distribution being done? The hon. Minister made a statement in this regard. What is the regional profile of the distribution? Out of 31 mmscmd gas from KG D-6, more than 50 per cent is flowing to West. I have no animosity towards the West, but it is flowing at that particular point where in their own soil, they are having a source of gas. It tantamounts to 'carrying coals to newcastle' Why?

...(Interruptions)... And, in-between, the four Eastern regional States, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Jharkhand are gas starved. The particular fertilizer plants needed to be revived on which this Government's Cabinet had given 'in principle' approval...(Time bell)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I am just concluding, Sir. They are lying unutilised because no assured gas linkage was given to them. The power plants are also suffering and being compelled to operate at low plant load factor. What is this regional imbalance? If it is a national property, it should be equitably distributed to the ...(Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Gopal Yadav ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, public transport is suffering in my State because of non-availability of gas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your time is over. I have called the next speaker...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, I am concluding in one minute. There are two basic issues. One is, it should be rationally priced. Its price cannot be linked up to the international crude oil price.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have made your point.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Secondly, in regard to distribution, a proper regional balance has to be brought back, and this can only be done, I reiterate, by taking over the distribution and marketing of gas by the Government, through the National Gas Grid, to be operated by the Gas Authority of India Ltd., which was established for this purpose alone. Sir, we demand a concrete assurance from the hon. Minister in this regard. Thank you.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं मुख्य रूप से कृष्णा गोदावरी बेसिन के B6 ब्लॉक के संबंध में बात करूंगा, क्योंकि इसमें गैस निकलने की इतनी अपार क्षमता है कि इस वक्त गैस की अवेलेबिलिटी की जो स्थिति है, वह उसको डबल कर देगी। प्रश्न यह है कि यह सस्ती दर पर कैसे उपलब्ध हो और जो तमाम आउट प्लान हैं-चल रहे हैं या चलने वाले हैं, उनको भी गैस की उपलब्ध हो। महोदय, मेरा पहला प्रश्न यह है कि एन.टी.पी.सी. और आर.आई.एल. के बीच में 17 साल का एक कांटेक्ट हुआ और वह 2.34 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से हुआ। उसके बाद कांटेक्ट ने लागत बढ़ने के नाम पर प्राइस को बढ़ाने की कोशिश की तथा वह टालमटोल करने लगा। इस कारण एन.टी.पी.सी को मुम्बई हाई कोर्ट में जाना पड़ा और इसी तरह से एक और कम्पनी-आर.एन.आर.एल. के साथ जो समझौता हुआ, उसमें भी हाई कोर्ट जाना पड़ा। गवर्नमेंट से कहने के बाद भी इसमें गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं किया। बाद में सेक्रेटरी की एक कमेटी बनी, एम्पॉवर्ड ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स ने फैसला कर प्राइस 4-2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से तय किया। श्रीमन, 4.2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से जब एक कम्पनी के पक्ष में प्राइस फिक्स की, उस वक्त भी एन. टी. पी. सी को ओ.

एन. जी. सी. 1.8 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से और आज भी आपूर्ति कर रहे हैं। माननीय मंत्री जी से मेरा पहला क्लेरिफिकेशन यह है कि जब ओ. एन. जी. सी. 1.8 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से गैस सप्लाई कर सकती है तो क्या आवश्यकता थी कि सरकारी कम्पनी को इतना बड़ा घाटा देकर एक कम्पनी के पक्ष में 4.2 डॉलर प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से एम्पॉवर्ड ग्रुप ऑफ मिनिस्टर्स इसका फैसला करे। यह कौन-सा तरीका था? क्या यह देश के हित में था, किसी व्यक्ति के हित में था अथवा जो पावर प्लांट्स को चलाने के लिए कम्पनियां या पावर फैक्टरीज हैं, उनके हित में था?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि उसी समय जब यह फैसला हुआ, तो एक और कम्पनी के साथ भी फैसला हुआ था, और 2004 में ही एशिया की सबसे बड़ी गैस आधारित परियोजना उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी में स्थापित करने के लिए काम शुरू हुआ था। चूंकि वह कम्पनी टाल-मटोल करती रही, दोनों में झगड़ा रहा, एनटीपीसी को और आरएनआरएल को भी हाई कोर्ट जाना पड़ा और हाई कोर्ट ने फिर फैसला दिया, हाई कोर्ट ने एक मामले में फैसला दिया। हाई कोर्ट के फैसले तक गवर्नमेंट ने कुछ नहीं कहा, हाई कोर्ट के फैसले के बाद गवर्नमेंट सुप्रीम कोर्ट में गई और वहां कहां कि यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है। हम लोग और सारा देश मानता है कि यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... जब यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, तो यह राष्ट्र के हाथ में होनी चाहिए, यह हमारी मांग है। यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, लेकिन जब गैस निकलने लगी, जब गैस की कीमतें बढ़ने लगी, तब यह मामला आया। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि तब तक आप क्यों सोते रहे? अगर अब आपने यह माना है, यह ठीक है कि देर आयद दुरुस्त आयद, जब यह राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति है, तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप कृष्णा, गोदावरी बेसिन डी-6 ब्लॉक को नेशलाइज करेंगे? ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सर, अभी मेरा दूसरा पाइंट ही चल रहा है। मैं तो बहुत ही short में बोलता हूं, यह आप जानते हैं।

सर, मेरा तीसरा पाइंट दादरी के संबंध में है, जो इसी से संबंधित है। हमारा जो दादरी का प्लांट है, उसके लिए एनटीपीसी से भी और आरएनआरएल से भी समझौता हुआ था। अगर आप एक कम्पनी की एक बात को मानते हैं, तो उसने जो समझौता किया है, उसको मानिए और अगर उस समझौते को नहीं मानना चाहते हैं, तो जिस समझौते से आप बंधे हुए हैं, जिस के जरिए से आपने उसको कंट्रैक्ट दिया था, उस कंट्रैक्ट को आप खत्म करिए। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या आप उत्तर प्रदेश के दादरी प्लांट के लिए गैस उपलब्ध करवाने का आश्वासन देंगे, जिससे वह प्लांट शुरू हो सके? क्योंकि 2100 एकड़ जमीन वहां पर उपलब्ध है, उसकी बाउंड्री हो चुकी है। गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कोई स्पष्ट आश्वासन नहीं मिल रहा है, इसलिए वहां पर इन्वेस्टमेंट नहीं हो रहा है।

सर, अंत में मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं। माननीय मंत्री जी मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहता हूं कि *पूरा देश सम्मान करता है, आप यह सारा पाप उन्हीं के कंधे पर बंदूक रखकर क्यों करवाना चाहते हो? आप इसको खुद करिए। यह सब * के नाम से ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप उनका नाम क्यों ले रहे हैं? ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप एक पार्टिकुलर मिनिस्टर का नाम मत लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री मुरली देवरा : आप मेरा नाम लीजिए। आप उनका नाम क्यों ले रहे हैं?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please remove the Minister's name.

*Not recorded.

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : अच्छा, उनका नाम नहीं लेता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : प्लीज, आप तो जानते हैं, आप तो सीनियर मेम्बर हैं।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : ये सब काम खुद नहीं करना चाहते हैं, दूसरों से करवाना चाहते हैं।...(व्यवधान)... मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप दादरी के लिए हाँ कह दीजिए। आप यह कह दीजिए कि दादरी के लिए गैस दिलवाएंगे। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बात कर रहा हूँ। इससे उत्तर प्रदेश को लाभ होगा, इससे दिल्ली को भी लाभ होगा। मैं तो कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आप इसको नेशनलाइज कर दीजिए।...(समय की घंटी)... मैं कहां किसी के लिए कह रहा हूँ। मैं कह रहा हूँ कि यह राष्ट्र की सम्पत्ति है, इसको आप अपने हाथ में लीजिए और इसका लाभ उठाइए। आप इसका लाभ किसी एक व्यक्ति को क्यों देना चाहते हैं? आप इसका लाभ सरकार को क्यों नहीं देना चाहते हैं?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी, हमें समय का अभाव है, हम क्या करें? आप बोलना चाहते हैं, मगर समय ज्यादा नहीं है।

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : सर, मैं आपकी बात मानता हूँ और आपको बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देता हूँ। मैं चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी हमारी बातों का भी जवाब दें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Shri Parimal Nathwani ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री परिमल नथवानी (झारखंड) : सर, सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मैं रिलायंस से एसोसिएट हूँ ...(*व्यवधान*)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, my name is second.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I will call your name. It is according to the order. I said, there are 20 hon. Members who want to participate ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Sir, I had given notice first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Your name is there.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Sir, I know my name is there. But I had given to the notice first.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : That is not the criterion. Whoever had given notice will be called. Please, have some patience.

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Okay; Sir.

श्री परिमल नथवानी : सभापति जी, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि I am associated with RIL and am an Independent Member from Jharkhand. यह जो KG basin को लेकर विवाद चल रहा है और हमारे यहां के सीनियर क्लीग्स ने जो बात उठाई है, मैं उनकी आधी बातों से सहमत हूँ और आधी बातों से सहमत नहीं हूँ, क्योंकि मैं यह याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि KG basin प्राइवेट कंट्रेक्टर के लिए एक ठेका छूटा था, जिसको global bidding बोलते हैं। 1999 में जब केन्द्र NDA की गवर्नमेंट थी, तब यह globalisation tender निकला था। इसके बाद 2000 में इनका price mechanism of private sharing तय हुआ था। चाहे UP के लिए power plant लगे या किसी प्रदेश की जनता के लिए लगे, तो जो कान्ट्रेक्टर है, मैं as a MP उसको जानता हूँ कि इसमें उनका कोई role नहीं है। यह कहा जा रहा है कि हम पूरी डील को private contractors के हाथ से लेकर GAIL को सौंप दिया जाए। हमें पता है कि GAIL and ONGC ने भी इन टेंडरों में भाग लिया था। सर, यह एक International image की बात है कि कोई आदमी पैसा लगाता है और देश के अंदर जो गैस की कमी है, मेहनत करके उसे पूरा करता है और जब गैस की रिकवरी हो जाती है, तब उसके ऊपर एलिगेशन लगाया जाता है कि कान्ट्रेक्टर अपना बिजनेस कर रहा है, but मैं यह याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि यह ग्लोबल टेन्डर के माध्यम से एक कान्ट्रेक्ट था। सर, मैं आज भी यह कहना चाहूंगा कि यह price mechanism Group of Ministers ने किया है। जो allocation of the gas है, वह existing power plant के लिए है। गवर्नमेंट ने जो पॉलिसी तय की है, वह उनके आधीन है। यह कहना कि RNRL and Dadri के लिए इनजस्टिस हो रहा है, इस बात में कोई दम नहीं है। यहां पर जो MoU की बात की जा रही है, वह प्राइवेट बात है, यह नहीं होनी चाहिए थी। मैं उस पर ऑब्जेक्शन करता हूँ, क्योंकि MoU में क्या है, वह प्राइवेट लोग नहीं जानते हैं। यह MoU दो भाइयों और दो कम्पनियों के बीच में है, जिसके अंदर कभी कम्पनी ने कोई वायलेशन नहीं किया है। All this is subject to Government approval. उसके अंदर मेंशन किया गया था। अगर हम इस बात को कहते हैं कि प्राइवेट कान्ट्रेक्टर गैस डील अपनी मनमानी से करता है, तो मैं इस बात को कहते हैं कि प्राइवेट कान्ट्रेक्टर गैस डील अपनी मनमानी से करता है, तो मैं इस बात से सहमत नहीं हूँ।...(व्यवधान)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : He has only disclosed his interest...(Interruptions)... Under the Ethics Committee rules, if a Member is interested in a subject, he has to disclose it. Now, Mr. Mysura Reddy.

SHRI M.V. MYSURYA REDDY : Sir, I fully associate myself with what my colleague, Mr. Tapan Sen, has said, but I wish to add one or two points to his statement.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mysura Reddy, your list is long; please do not read out such a long statement !

SHRI M.V. MYSURYA REDDY : Sir, the list may be long but I shall conclude it within three minutes.

Sir, gas is the primary source for power, fertilizer, CNG, LPG, etc. The cost of gas plays a vital role in the prices of end products like power, fertilizer, etc. That is why, my issues are based only on pricing, Sir.

The RIL, in its letter dated 22.05.2009 to DGH, has disclosed an expenditure of only 4.8 billion dollars. In the same letter, RIL has disclosed the post wellhead cost' per Million British Thermal Units of KG gas to be 0.895 dollars. Why cannot the Minister place this letter on the Table of this House?

Sir, in reply to my Starred Question No. 336 on 27.07.2009, it was said that validation was done by some private agencies. I would like to know the following from the Minister : The Mustang Engineering company which evaluated RIL's investment estimates is the real contractor for Panna field development project and Mr. Gopalakrishnan is on the faculty of the School of Petroleum Technology. In view of the conflicting interests, I would like to know whether they have disclosed their interest before they took up the assignment. If they had disclosed their interest, why did the Government appoint them as independent evaluators?

The third point is that the capital expenditure for development of gas fields was increased from \$ 2.47 billion in 2004 to \$ 8.8 billion in 2006. Whereas, if you look at the production, it only doubled to 80 MMSCMD. Normally, when the production is doubled, the capital expenditure has to come down. Even if you double the capital expenditure, it should be 4.94 billion. Hence, it has nearly doubled. This simple proposition is known to common man. If so, how did the EGoMs forget this simple equation? This clearly shows that there is something fishy in this.

Sir, the next point is that Sasan, in Ultra Mega Power Project, quoted for Rs. 1.19/kWh with indigenous coal, and Munda quoted for Rs. 2.26/kWh imported coal. Now, the Government fixed the price at \$ 4.23 MMBTU. Based on this, the cost will become Rs. 2.30/kWh which is commercially unviable and uneconomical. Has the EGoMs considered this point before fixing the gas price?

Sir, the last point is regarding my State. How much of gas will be given to Andhra Pradesh from RIL's fields in K.G. Basin, out of the peak production of 80 MMSCMD?

2.00 P.M.

श्री आर. सी. सिंह (पश्चिम बंगाल) : उपसभापति जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं श्री तपन सेन जी और श्री राम गोपाल जी ने जो कहा है, स्वयं को उससे एसोसिएट करते हुए अपनी बात कहना चाहूंगा। मैं अपनी बात संक्षेप में कहने की कोशिश करूंगा। यह बात सच है कि प्राकृतिक गैस की सप्लाई और डिमांड में काफी अंतर है। देश के लिए इसको त्वरित गति देने की जरूरत है। मैं कुछ सवाल जानना चाहूंगा कि इस mismatch को पूरा करने के लिए हमारी जो सरकारी संस्थाएं हैं, इनके द्वारा डेवलप करने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है? ये आर.आई.एल. पर ही क्यों निर्भर रहना चाहते हैं? मेरी समझ में एक बात और नहीं आई कि जब 2.34 US\$ प्रति यूनिट का एग्रीमेंट हुआ था, तो उसकी जगह पर मंत्रिमंडल की तरफ से 4.2 प्रति यूनिट यू. एस. डालर देने के लिए इस प्राइवेट कंपनी को क्यों सलाह दी गई? दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि K.G. Basin में जो गैस है, उसको निकालने के लिए और बढ़ाने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था कर रही है? एक बात मैं कहना चाहूंगा, मेरे साथियों ने भी कही है कि बजट के पैराग्राफ 93 में उन्होंने कहा *“...business of laying and operating cross country natural gas or crude or petroleum oil pipeline network for distribution...”* इसके तहत इन्होंने इनकम टैक्स के 1968 के कानून में छूट देकर, सैक्शन 35 (AD) को जोड़कर 20,000 करोड़ रुपये की एक कंपनी को छूट क्यों दी? ऐसी क्या जरूरत पड़ गई कि एक कंपनी को छूट देने के लिए हमारे इस कानून में इस तरह से परिवर्तन करना पड़ा, जबकि इसका लाभ आम लोगों तक पहुंच सकता था? वह लाभ आम लोगों को नहीं दिया गया। तीसरी बात मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा कि KG Basin में quantum of gas के प्रॉडक्शन पर विवाद हो रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री महोदय से इसकी फिगर जानना चाहूंगा कि के. जी. (D-6) बेसिन में गैस को जो उत्पादन हो रहा है आप मंथ वाइज उसकी एक फिगर दें, जिससे कि जो विवाद हो रहा है, उस तक जाया जा सके। सर, मैं आखिरी बात यह कहना चाहूंगा कि इस तरह से इसका मूल्य बढ़ा कर 4.2 डालर प्रति यूनिट किया गया है, इसका 99 प्रतिशत लाभ RIL को मिलेगा और सिर्फ एक प्रतिशत ही सरकार पाएगी। यानी सिर्फ एक प्रतिशत ही देश के हित में जाएगा और 99 प्रतिशत व्यक्तिगत हित में जाएगा। इसलिए ऐसा क्यों किया गया, इसके बारे में डिटेल् में जानकारी देने की कोशिश करें।

श्री उपसभापति : आपका आखिरी प्वायंट हो गया। आपने कहा कि यह आपका आखिरी प्वायंट है।
...(व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी (आंध्र प्रदेश) : सर, आंध्र प्रदेश के ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, आपने अभी अपना नाम दिया है। सांगी साहब, आपको रूल्स के बारे में जानना चाहिए और हमने बार-बार सर्कुलर भी दिया है कि कोई भी विषय शुरू होने के आधा घंटे पहले आपको अपना नाम देना पड़ेगा। We have been repeating this. ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी : सर, इसका आंध्र प्रदेश से संबंध है।

श्री उपसभापति : संबंध है ... (व्यवधान)...

श्री गिरीश कुमार सांगी : सर, हमें अपनी स्टेट के बारे में कहने का कुछ मौका तो दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति : आपको अपना नाम देने से किसने रोका है।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मेरा टाइम चला जा रहा है।

श्री उपसभापति : नहीं, आपका समय खत्म हो गया था।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक और प्वायंट रखना चाहता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, इस तरह से नहीं होगा। ...*(व्यवधान)*... अभी कई लोग हैं। आप क्यों बेकरार हैं।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मैं सिर्फ एक सवाल करना चाहता हूँ ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री उपसभापति : आपने अभी अपना नाम दिया है। आप बैठ जाइए प्लीज।

श्री आर. सी. सिंह : सर, मेरा कहना यह है कि इसका समाधान एक ही है कि इस total system को Nationalise कर दिया जाए, ताकि देश हित में काम करे। धन्यवाद।

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to tell you an important issue ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No, no. I have not called your name...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, I want to raise an important issue. It is about Andhra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member from Andhra has already spoken...*(Interruptions)* How do you know all the names? ...*(Interruptions)*... There are other names also from Andhra. Why do you presume that it is not there?...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, the Assembly has taken a decision. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the State Government has taken a decision...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : But we have to follow some order...*(Interruptions)*... Please.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : We are requesting you, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You have just now sent the name. I have just announced that I have got a list of twenty Members. I will have to call them first, and, not your name. Please understand...*(Interruptions)* Please sit down. If you want to participate, I will call you. Please ...*(Interruptions)*... You have not given the request at all. Now, I will call you. ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please. Now, Shri Bharatkumar Raut.

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra) : Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, at the outset, let me thank Mr. Tapan Sen for bringing forward a very important and vital issue. Though I have some reservations about his contention, I really thank him. Sir, the Minister has given a detailed reply. Perhaps, Sir, more details are required. But at the same time, he has avoided the moot question that has been discussed and which is a matter of concern for the society. Sir, due to paucity of time, I will only mention a few points, which I have jotted down.

Sir, oil and gas fields are natural assets and they are given to private parties for exploration, development and production. While the parties concerned derive economic benefits out of these activities, the Government also gets taxes, royalties as per the formula worked out under the Gas Utilisation Policy and the Production Sharing Contracts. Sir, whatever has been given is as per the policy, and, once these contracts are given, it is our responsibility, the nation's responsibility, and, it is a matter of pride also, to ensure that those words are kept.

We cannot half-heartedly say, "Now, you stop it" you cannot do that. You should honour whatever contract has been given. Sir, the private parties cannot bargain or barter a commodity which does not belong to any of the party, whatever may be the terms of the family MoU privately arrived at between them.

It is well settled that no private agreement can create a vested interest in a property which belongs to the nation. We should believe that it is a national property which belongs to the nation. We should believe that it is a national property and no private treaty -- whatever may be the terms of the family MoU -- should be entertained here.

Sir, in this case, time is the essence of the matter. The Supreme Court has fixed 1st September as the date of hearing. Therefore, I suggest that early steps should be taken to bring up before the Parliament a proper Bill regarding gas. That will effect the High Court's order and settle the problem. Thus, Government's sovereign authority can also be proved. ...**(Time-bell rings)**. I also suggest that the Government should also incorporate clauses in the Bill for setting up a regulatory body to regulate pricing and allocation of gas. Thank you.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR (Tamil Nadu) : *Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate on behalf of my party AIADMK, in this calling attention motion on power deficit that has arisen due to shortage of natural gas. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, a nation's growth depends on the growth of industrial sector, agricultural sector and the basic infrastructural sector. Power is essential for the growth of these three sector. Power is generated through many sources such as coal, natural gas, wind mill, water resource, nuclear power stations, solar power etc. If a question arises whether the power generated in our nation through these various resources are sufficient to meet our need, I am sorry to say that the power generated is insufficient to meet the needs of the entire nation.

The share of natural gas in power generation is only 10-15% of the total power generation of our nation. But, we could not generate even this much power.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Sir, our industries have incurred a loss to the extent of Rs. 43,205 crore in the last financial year. In the year 2003, the loss incurred in the production sector is Rs. 22,000 crore. But now, the amount loss has doubled in the production sector. The main reason for this is lack of proper planning, and the proper implementation of already planned schemes, at proper time. These shortcomings have to be rectified by the Union Government in future.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, it is said that the Government has planned to increase power generation to the extent of 1,47,000 Megawatts before the year 2012. But it is really questionable whether the Government could reach at least 60% of the target. This is mainly because of the lack of proper planning on the Government side and delayed implementation of the planned schemes. Sir, as has been already mentioned by me, the share of natural gas in total power generation is 10-15% and we have not obtained even this meager share of natural gas. For instance, I could cite the case of Godavari Natural Gas Station. The required natural gas to be supplied from the Godavari National Gas Station, could not be supplied by it. As a result, the power generation plant with the production capacity of 5000 mega watts, established at the cost of Rs. 20,000 crore. But, the maintenance of this plant has incurred a heavy loss.

Our Hon'ble Leader Madam *Puratchithalaivi* (mns. revolutionary leader) Ms. Jayalalitha, has understood that industrial sector, basic infrastructural sector and agriculture are essential for the growth of the nation and that power generation is needed for the growth of these sectors. That is why, she took special initiatives to increase power generation. During her rule, Tamil Nadu had generated surplus power so that even our neighbouring States could be benefited.

Nafta is used as alternate fuel whenever shortage of natural gas arises. But the production cost of nafta is double that of the production cost of natural gas.

Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, our nation has the capacity to generate 13.4 Gigawatts of power through natural gas, but we could not get sufficient amount of natural gas even to generate 1.1 Gigawatts of power. Therefore Sir, through this August House, I request the Union Government to overcome these shortcomings in future and resolve the problem of power deficit by making sufficient availability of natural gas. Only then could we protect our industrial sector and lead our nation into the path of progress. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank You.

SHRI N.K. SINGH (Bihar) : Thank you, Sir. I will begin by asking the first question from the hon. Petroleum Minister. I begin by complimenting him for the remarkable discovery that gas is a sovereign commodity and little later we will discover that air, water, those things which are under the ground, are startling discovery and really are sovereign assets. Therefore, the first thing anyone would like to know is, why it took so long for the Petroleum Ministry to discover that gas, in fact, is a sovereign asset and needed, therefore, to be determined by the sovereign. Sir, my second question is in relation to paragraph four of the Minister's statement. He has given an *inter se* allocation among different competing uses of gas, namely, fertilizer, power and so on and so forth. In a situation where there is demand-supply disequilibrium, we would like to understand the logic which has determined the *inter se* priority among different competing uses of gas.

Mr. Tapan Sen raised a very important point about regional imbalance. I would add to that the demands of the rural sector. And let me add to that whether ecologically and environmentally important factors have been given the kind of premium they deserve in the *inter se* gas allocation in a situation where India is under increasing pressure for improving sustainable development where the ecological and environmental factors also bring rural economy into play.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

Today, really the maximum amount of a arduousness rural work is to rural women who have to meet their cooking needs out of wood. And the integrated energy policy of the Prime Minister enjoins upon us to replace this cooking medium which is the biggest creator of soot, which is the biggest creator of environmental degradation. So, we would like to understand the logic of paragraph four in the *inter se* allocation among different competing uses of gas, and whether it factored in the environmental factors and integration of rural economy.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair]

Third, when it comes to prices, as we can see from the annexure to the statement, they varied dramatically from 5.65 (\$/mmbtu) to as low as 3.5 (\$/mmbtu). We would like to understand the logic by which the price fixation modalities have been determined. To merely say that a Group of Ministers will determine price is not good enough. Whether the Ministry has any views on setting up an independent regulator which will have an arm's-length relationship to be able to determine prices instead of foisting this responsibility either on officials or on a Group of Ministers.

Sir, I am asking this particularly because at the time when this sector was being deregulated, the Minister might like to jog his memory, there was also a *pari passu* commitment that there would be an independent regulator for up and downstream sector which will consist of experts and so on to be able to determine the price.

I would urge upon the Minister to enlighten the House on the regulatory issue and the methodology for the determination of prices.

श्री तारिक अनवर (महाराष्ट्र) : महोदय, तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति हैं। उन्हें निजी कम्पनियों को इसलिए दिया जाता है ताकि वे उनमें और खोज करके उस क्षेत्र को विकसित करें, और तेल या गैस का उत्पादन करें तथा इन कार्यकलापों के जरिए आर्थिक लाभ अर्जित हो सके। मैं मंत्री जी से सीधे तौर पर एक जानकारी प्राप्त करना चाहूंगा कि जब सरकार इन्हें राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति मानती है, फिर इसे निजी कम्पनी को इसके खोज-बीन के काम के लिए दिया जाता है, तो सरकार को छोड़ कर निजी कम्पनी को किसी के पक्ष में निर्णय करने का कोई अधिकार है या नहीं? उसके साथ-ही-साथ भारत सरकार की प्राकृतिक गैस के लिए किसी कंट्रैक्टर या किसी निजी क्षेत्र का सौदा करने का अधिकार है, हक है या नहीं है? मैं मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित जो मूल्य है या सरकार ने जो कीमत तय की है, उससे किसी निजी कम्पनी को गैस दिए जाने पर सरकार को कितने रेवेन्यू का नुकसान उठाना पड़ेगा? इसके साथ-ही-साथ हाई कोर्ट का जो आदेश आया है, हाई कोर्ट के उस आदेश से सरकार की जो Gas Utilisation Policy है, उस पर एक सवालिया निशान लग गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से इस बारे में भी जानना चाहूंगा क्योंकि यह नीति काफी विचार-विमर्श के बाद, Empowered Group of Minister के स्तर से तय हुई थी। उस के बाद हाईकोर्ट का यह फैसला हुआ है।

महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से इन दोनों बातों का स्पष्टीकरण चाहता हूं।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने क्लैरीफिकेशन के लिए बहुत लंबा स्टेटमेंट दिया है। महोदय, वैसे भी natural gas is the cleanest, safest and most useful energy और इस का प्रयोग हमारे देश में पावर जनरेशन के लिए, फर्टिलाइजर इंडस्ट्री, स्टील एंड आयरन फाउंड्रीज, कास्ट आयरन और डॉमेस्टिक परपज के लिए भी किया जा सकता है। महोदय, भारत में इस का उत्पादन एच. वी. जे.

एक्स हजीरा, गुजरात, उड़ान, के. जी. बेसिन, कावेरी बेसिन, असम और त्रिपुरा में होता है। महोदय, भारत के लिए गैस अब नई चीज नहीं है। यह 60 के दशक से, असम और गुजरात में उद्योगों में इस का प्रयोग हो रहा है। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय क्षेत्र में clean energy produce करने के लिए हम ने तरह-तरह के कदम उठाए हैं। साथ ही, इस की डिमांड भी बढ़ी है और उस डिमांड को पूरा करने के लिए अभी हमारा प्रोडक्सन पूरा नहीं है। हम ने गैस को इम्पोर्ट करने के लिए भी बहुत से कदम उठाए हैं। अभी ईरान, पाकिस्तान, इंडिया गैस पाइप-लाइन प्रोजेक्ट पेंडिंग पड़ा है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि इस का स्टेट्स क्या है, यह प्रोजेक्ट कब तक पूरा होगा और हम इस से कितनी उम्मीद करते हैं? महोदय, म्यांमार, बंगला देश, इंडिया गैस पाइप-लाइन प्रोजेक्ट का स्टेट्स क्या है और इस प्रोजेक्ट से हमारी खपत कितनी पूरी होगी? हम ने एम.ओ.यू. साइन भी किया और बहुत से मंत्रियों ने दौरा भी किया है। महोदय, तुर्कमिनिस्तान-अफगानिस्तान-पाकिस्तान, टैप पाइप-लाइन के हम पार्ट नहीं हैं, किंतु तुर्कमिनिस्तान का जो दोलताबाद एरिया है, वहां पर बहुत सारे गैस रिजर्व्स हैं। तो आप ने "टैपी" बना ली, अब हम इस में हिस्सेदार बन गए, लेकिन हमें इस से गैस कब तक मिलेगी? मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस में हमारी हिस्सेदारी सिर्फ कागजी कार्यवाही न रहे। इसलिए मंत्री जी कृपया बताएं कि हमें वह गैस कब तक उपलब्ध होगी? महोदय, एल. एन. जी. के इम्पोर्ट के लिए भी हम ने बहुत सोचा है और एल. एन. जी. को ओ. जी. एल. में भी लाया गया है। ... (समय की घंटी) Sir, I am only putting pointed questions. I am not giving any background.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : There is time constraint.

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : सर, एल. एन. जी. के ओ.जी.एल. में आने के बाद हम ने अपनी डिमांड सप्लाय में कितनी भरपायी की है? आप ने 20th December 2006 को Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks की घोषणा की है। महोदय, कोलकाता, मुंबई, चेन्नई और दिल्ली के लोग उम्मीद लगाए हैं कि कब उनके रसोई घर में गैस पहुंचेगी अर्थात् कब यह प्रोजेक्ट लागू होगा? महोदय, फार्मिनेस मिनिस्टर ने पिछली बजट स्पीच में कहा कि हम एक National Gas Grid हाईवेज के साथ बनाने जा रहे हैं जिस में ट्रांसपोर्टेशन की सुविधा होगी और सड़क से लगते हुए हमारे जितने शहर हैं, वहां पर छोटे उद्योगों को भी गैस मिल सकेगी। आप ने पिछले दिनों बहुत से लाइसेंस छोटे-छोटे पावर प्लांट्स लगाने के लिए, छोटे-छोटे टर्बाइंस लगाने के लिए दिए हैं, उन को गैस कब तक उपलब्ध होगी? कृपया उस का भी ब्यौरा दें।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. To begin with, I feel sad that Mr. Sen and a few other Members have levelled allegations against the Government of mediating between two corporates which I don't think is right. The Government is not doing this. In any way, the Government is not involved in this kind of issues. It is the personal prejudiced opinion, in my opinion, and far from the truth. The other allegations are also* and far from reality... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT (West Bengal) : How can he say that it was* ... (Interruptions)... What is this? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Now, I come to the points which the hon. Minister ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KUREIN) : Please.

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : How can he say that it was* ... (Interruptions)... He put his point of view. How can it be* ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If they can make allegations, I can also make a remark... (Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : He can't say that it was* ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If they can make a remark, I can also. ... (Interruptions)... They made a remark against the Minister... (Interruptions)... They made a remark against the Government.... (Interruptions)...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, please. Mr. Santoshji, please listen to me. The Government will reply to them. You ask questions only ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am not talking of reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Don't attribute things. I am talking of * ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am talking of * ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, it is against a Member.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : If there is anything unparliamentary, you delete it...*(Interruptions)*... I have no problem....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, every Member gives notice without any motive...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : No, please. Let me listen to this.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Sir, every Member give notice without any motive. Calling a Member and saying that they are* questions or there is a motive behind it, that is bad on his part. That is wrong...*(Interruptions)*.. He should withdraw it..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : I will remove it.....*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : He should withdraw it. ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seats ..*(Interruptions)*.. I will deal with it. Please take your seats ..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : I have never attributed any motive to the hon. Minister ..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seats..*(Interruptions)*.. I will deal with it...*(Interruptions)* Please take your seats. I will deal with it, Tapanji, please take your seat. I will deal with it....*(Interruptions)*.. I will remove it...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : He should withdraw it....*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please. That is what I am saying. I will go through the records. If there is any reference in terms of * against a Member or even if there is any insinuation, that will be expunged...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Sir, that is not the issue. The issue is that this allegation is wrong. He has no right to say. It is for the Minister to say..*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : I told him. It is for the Government to say. You can say your opinion. You ask questions...*(Interruptions)*..Please. You can ask your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am coming to the questions..*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : He is a very senior Member. We can recommend him to go to the Government, if the Government is willing!...*(Interruptions)*...

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Sir, you have already given a ruling and I have accepted it...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You should have done it earlier. Why do you do it late? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I compliment the hon. Minister for giving a detailed statement. Straightaway I would like to put the questions. How is the present production of KG-D6 being used? How is it going to be utilised now and in future?

The second point is : What is the Government doing to increase the production of natural gas in different parts of the country?

Sir, he has mentioned in the first paragraph that the country has embarked on an accelerated programme of exploration and production through the New Exploration Licensing Policy bidding rounds in 1999. How has it, this NELP, helped the country so far? Now, I am just coming to the points...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You have asked three questions.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : They have distributed me, Sir. The next point is that in paragraph 4 he has mentioned how it is going to be used. he has mentioned that the intention of the Government is to operationalise all gas-based assests which were lying idle and unutilised due to non-availability of gas. Here he has mentioned that if there is any shortfall in utilisation it will be used for other purposes. I would like to know specifically from the hon. Minister whether the allocation of 15 mmscmd to existing gas-based fertiliser sector and like that 18 mmscmd, 5 mmscmd and 3 mmscmd, these will meet the full demand. Or, will they meet only partial demand? I would like know that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Okay, fine. That is enough.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Just one minute, Sir. in the case of masses, it is more important that the entire demand of the city gas sector and the LPG plants should be first met.

The last point is regarding pricing. He has given an annexure....*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No. You ask only questions.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am asking questions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please do that.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : I am doing that. He has given different prices. How has he come to different prices? We must have the same price for all at every level all over the country. Does the Government have any plan to achieve this and by what time? Thank you.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will confine myself to asking a couple of clarifications with regard to the domestic natural gas. I am not asking about the gas from Iran. I do not know when the US Government will allow the Government of India to go ahead. Nobody knows that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Don't get distracted, Come to your pointed questions.

SHRI D. RAJA : Sir, I join my respected colleague, Shri N.K. Singh, who complimented the Government for declaring natural gas as the national asset. If that is so, I think, the Government has all powers to decide its pricing, marketing, distribution, etc. The Government should not be at the mercy of anybody. I would like to know whether the Government would have that power with itself. This is number one. Secondly, the statement begins by saying, "The production and supply of natural gas started in a major way in the country with the commissioning of the Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur line by GAIL in the year 1987." But the Minister has not mentioned where that gas pipeline is going, where that gas is going. The gas, I understand, has been brought to the North. I do not object to it. Sir, the gas from the Bombay High could have been taken to the South. But the Government has never cared for the South. There are certain fertiliser industries which are in very bad shape in the South. SPIC is not in effective operation. I do not know whether SPIC is closed or working. I do not know it. But it is a bad shape. MFL in Chennai is in a bad shape. FACT is in bad shape because they have to depend on naphtha. They could have been supplied natural gas. Why hasn't the Government done this? So far as the present KG gas pipeline is concerned, there is an attempt to take the gas to Gujarat. There is an attempt to take the gas to UP. I do not object to the gas being taken to Gujarat or UP. But what about the State of Andhra Pradesh where the gas is explored? What is the share of Andhra Pradesh? Is there any thinking on the part of the Government to supply substantial gas to Andhra Pradesh? Is there any thinking on the part of the Government to supply gas to Southern States which have to depend on other sources for power and fertiliser? I would like the Minister to clarify one thing. If I am wrong, I stand corrected....*(Interruptions)*... I would like to seek the attention of the hon. Minister. Clearance has been given for a pipeline project in 2007, that is, Kakinada-Chennai pipeline, Chennai-Cochin pipeline, Chennai-Bangalore pipeline, Chennai-Tuticorin pipeline, but no work has started or no work has been done so far, if my information is correct...*(Interruptions)*. In the case of Kakinada-Gujarat pipeline, the work was finalised...*(Interruptions)*. Kakinada is on the Eastern Coast and Gujarat is on the Western Coast.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is the question?

SHRI D. RAJA : My question is : what is the approach of the Government? India is a country where there are many regions. The Government should have a balanced approach towards all the regions. If this regional imbalance continues, the UPA Government will be in trouble. This is the issue which the Government will have to address at the earliest. Thank you.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. In his reply, the hon. Minister said, "Till the year 2008-09, the domestic availability of natural gas in the country was 105 million metric standard cubic metres per day. Against this, the estimated demand of natural gas was around 197 mmscmd." So, from the statement it is very clear that the supply of gas is lower than the demand of gas in our country. Sir, I come from the North-Eastern Region of the country which is very much famous for its natural gas. Assam has huge quantity of natural gas. My question relates to the gas-based power projects. I am limiting myself only to be gas-based power projects.

Assam is suffering very badly. Even after 62 years of our independence, our country is suffering on account of power shortage, which affects the common people, the cultivators and the industry. Due to shortage of power, small and medium scale industries, in particular, suffer very badly. So, it is high time for Government to generate power from the gas base. Most of the States of our country depend upon power projects from gas. In fact, Tanzania and other countries supply power from gas based power projects. Although Assam has the potential...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Seek your clarification.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Sir, though Assam has the potential for power generation, yet, due to the negligence of the Government, they are not doing anything, and we are suffering. I would like to say on thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Seek your clarification.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : Every day gas ignites in Assam. I tell you, it is a national crime. Instead of utilising it in the interest of the country, it is getting ignited in the North-Eastern Region. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he is thinking to establish power projects in Assam from the gas available there? This Ministry, in consultation with the Power Ministry, should think about establishment of gas base power projects in Assam. My second clarification is this. When the Government is engaging private parties, then, why are they not engaging the ONGC in this sector?

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal) : Sir, in the statement of the hon. Minister he has said, "However, with no major discovery of gas for several years...". I would like to know whether it is a fact that before the K.G. Basin was privatised, when a fire broke out at a gas well in Amalapuram, -- incidentally, it was the constituency of the former Lok Sabha Speaker, late Shri G.M.C. Balayogi -- the gas was rejected to the ONGC, while, one fine morning, a private party gets gas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why it was so, and why he is saying that no major discovery of gas has taken place. Secondly, the hon. Minister has admitted in his statement that even in case of gas allocation to power plants facing gas shortage, -- it is there in the statement -- power plants in the private sector have been given priority vis-a-vis the NTPC plants by the Empowered Group of Ministers. Why is it so? My third clarification is this. Regarding distribution, the Minister says, "Zero percentage to the Eastern region". Sir, we are coming from the Eastern region; especially, in the four States of West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Orissa, there is no proper distribution and the fertilizer plants have been shut down in Durgapur and other places. I would like to know why the Government is not in a position to have proper distribution of gas so as to reduce the imbalance of the country. The K.G. Basin is the national wealth, and it should be distributed, as a national property, to all the regions of the country. Sir, my fourth clarification is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Sir, it is not a fact. We have seen; in the Finance Bill, there is a special ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, ask specific question.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Yes, Sir. This is the specific question. Only for one company, which is related to this gas KG basin, has benefited by Rs. 20,000 crores-- which is a national property -- at the cost of the common people of our country...(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Mr. Shri Mohammed Adeeb.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Sir, my last point is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, no. I have already called Mr. Mohammed Adeeb. Take your seat now...(Interruptions)..

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : ... would like to see, the Indian quality should not...(Interruptions)... This is my opinion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Shri Mohammed Adeeb.

श्री मोहम्मद अदीब (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं अपने मंत्री जी को मुबारकबाद दे रहा हूँ।

جناب محمد ادیب (اتر پردیش): مہودے، میں اپنے منتری جی کو مبارکباد دے رہا ہوں

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : There is no time to congratulate; just put your question.

श्री मोहम्मद अदीब : महोदय, उनके द्वारा यह detailed reply देने के बाद बहुत-सी बातें क्लीयर हो गई हैं, क्योंकि पहले यह लग रहा था, गैस की जो बातें अखबारों में आ रही थीं, उनसे यह लग रहा था कि यह कोई प्राइवेट कंपनियों का जिफ्र है, लेकिन मंत्री जी के बयान के बाद यह सामने आया कि यह हुकूमत-ए-हिन्द की हैसियत है और यह देश के हित में है। इससे हम लोगों को इत्मीनान हुआ। इन्होंने reply बहुत सही दिया है, लेकिन मैं दो बातें जानना चाहता हूँ। दसवें पैराग्राफ में आपने लिखा है कि 203 block under NEPL के हमने ब्लॉक किए हैं और लगभग 12 बिलियन डॉलर इन्वेस्ट किए हैं, लेकिन इसके नतीजे क्या हुए? उससे कितनी गैस निकलने की उम्मीद है तथा कितनी गैस और निकलने की उम्मीद है? जहां तक distribution का सवाल है, तो हमको सब जगह जाना चाहिए। अभी हमारे साथी ने नोयडा का जिफ्र किया है। वहां आज तीन-चार साल से किसानों की जमीन ली गई है, लेकिन वहां आज तक प्लांट नहीं लगा है और चंद दिनों पहले मायावती जी ने अपना एक इशतेहार दिया है, जिसमें उत्तर प्रदेश में 2017 तक के पावर प्लांट का जिफ्र है, लेकिन दादरी प्लांट का उसमें कोई जिफ्र नहीं है **(समय की घंटी)**। महोदय, यह एक चिंता का विषय है, क्योंकि वहां हमारी जमीन भी ली गई और वहां अभी तक कोई पावर प्लांट भी नहीं लगा है।

महोदय, मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने EGOM के जरिए एक फार्मूला बनाया है, जिसके तहत आपने pricing की है। मैं यह मालूम करना चाहता हूँ कि अगर आपने इसे 4.25 फिक्स किया है और इस फार्मूले के तहत आपने लिखा है कि अगर डॉलर 25 से 60 के बीच रहता है तो यह price 2.5 मिलेगी या यह 4.25 रहेगी? बहुत-बहुत शुक्रिया।

جناب محمد ادیب : مہودے، ان کے دوارا یہ ٹٹیلڈ ریپلانی دینے کے بعد بہت سی

باتیں کلنیر ہو گئی ہیں، کیوں کہ پہلے یہ لگ رہا تھا، گیس کی جو باتیں اخباروں

میں آ رہی تھیں، ان سے یہ لگ رہا تھا کہ یہ کوئی پرائیویٹ کمپنیوں کا ذکر ہے،

لیکن منٹری جی کے بیان کے بعد یہ سامنے آیا کہ یہ حکومت بند کی حیثیت ہے اور یہ دیش کے بت میں ہے۔ اس سے ہم لوگوں کو اطمینان ہوا۔ انہوں نے ریپلانی بہت صحیح دیا ہے، لیکن میں دو باتیں جاننا چاہتا ہوں۔ دسویں پیراگراف میں آپ نے لکھا ہے کہ 203 بلاک انڈر این۔ای۔پی۔ایل۔ کے ہم نے بلاک کئے ہیں اور لگ بھگ 12 بلین ڈالر انویسٹ کئے ہیں، لیکن اس کے نتیجے کیا ہوئے؟ اس سے کتنی گیس نکالنے کی امید ہے اور کتنی گیس اور نکالنے کی امید ہے؟ جہاں تک ڈسٹریبیوشن کا سوال ہے، تو ہم کو سب جگہ جانا چاہیے۔ ابھی ہمارے ایک ساتھی نے نوئیڈا کا ذکر کیا ہے۔ وہاں آج تین چار سال سے کسانوں کی زمین لی گئی ہے، لیکن وہاں آج تک پلانٹ نہیں لگا ہے اور چند دنوں پہلے مایاوتی جی نے اپنا ایک اشتہار دیا ہے، جس میں اتر پردیش میں 2017 تک کے پاور پلانٹ کا ذکر ہے، لیکن دادری پلانٹ کا اس میں کوئی ذکر نہیں ہے۔ (وقت کی گھنٹی)۔ مہودے، یہ ایک چنٹا کا وشن ہے، کیوں کہ وہاں ہماری زمین بھی لی گئی اور وہاں ابھی تک کوئی پاور پلانٹ نہیں لگا ہے۔

مہودے، میں ایک بات اور کہنا چاہتا ہوں کہ آپ نے EGOM کے ذریعے ایک فارمولہ بنایا ہے، جس کے تحت آپ نے پرائسنگ کی ہے۔ میں یہ معلوم کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر آپ نے اسے 4.25 فکس کیا ہے اور اس فارمولے کے تحت آپ نے لکھا ہے کہ اگر ڈالر 25 سے 60 کے بیچ رہتا ہے تو یہ پرائس 2.5 ملے گی یا یہ 4.25 رہے گی؟ بہت بہت شکریہ۔

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, Prof. Alka Balram Kshatriya.

پرو. اलका क्षत्रिय (गुजरात) : धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। देश के औद्योगिकीकरण में उपलब्ध बहुमूल्य संसाधन गैस राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति है, जो कि किसानों के लिए जरूरी उर्वरक के लिए, सार्वजनिक परिवहन के लिए, इस्पात क्षेत्र के लिए, घरेलू क्षेत्र के लिए, विद्युत क्षेत्र के लिए बहुत ही जरूरी है, लेकिन दो सरकारी गैस कंपनियों ने इसको अपनी निजी संपत्ति माना है। मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य RIL और RNRL के बीच गैस मुद्दे से है, जो कि अब उच्चतम न्यायालय में पहुंच चुका है। मैं न्यायालय के विचाराधीन मामले के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहना चाहती हूँ, लेकिन इन दो कंपनियों द्वारा पारिवारिक निपटारे के लिए देश के प्राकृतिक संसाधन गैस को अपनी निजी संपत्ति मान कर आपस में बांटा गया है, उसके बारे में मैं बात करना चाहती हूँ कि तथाकथित समझौता-पत्र, जिसका ब्यौरा अभी भी गुप्त है, मैं गैस को निजी संपत्ति समझा गया और इसे हस्ताक्षरकर्त्ताओं ने 60:40 के अनुपात में बांट दिया है। यह बात पिछले चार सालों से चल रही थी और इस गंभीर बाबत की ओर अब सरकार का ध्यान गया है, जिसके लिए पहले तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद दे रही हूँ और मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध भी करना चाहती हूँ और पूछना भी चाहती हूँ कि समझौता-पत्र के बारे में वह सदन को बताए कि समझौता-पत्र में क्या लिखा गया है? दूसरी

बात मैं यह पूछना चाहती हूँ कि क्या ऐसा कोई कानून है कि जिसके तहत ऐसे किसी कानून को अनुमति दी जा सकती है? तीसरी बात, जहां तक गैस आबंटन का संबंध है, उसमें सरकार द्वारा शुरुआत में क्या कदम उठाए गए थे? चौथी बात, ऐसी निंदनीय व्यापारिक कुव्यवस्था की रोकथाम के लिए, राष्ट्र की सार्वभौम और अधिकार की सुरक्षा के लिए क्या सरकार का कोई विधान लाने का प्रस्ताव है? और, आखिरी बात, क्या सरकार का स्वतंत्र Regulatory Authority बनाने का कोई प्रस्ताव है? महोदय, मैंने बहुत ही point-wise जवाब मांगा है और मेरे सवाल का जवाब मंत्री जी देंगे। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Okay, Shri D.P. Sabharwal.

श्री धर्म पाल सभ्रवाल (पंजाब) : महोदय, सांसद श्री तपन कुमार सेन ने सरकार का जिस मुद्दे की ओर ध्यानाकर्षण किया है, यह बहुत समय से चल रहा है। इसके बारे में मेरे सांसद साथियों ने बहुत खुलकर स्पष्टीकरण मांगा है और मंत्री जी ने भी जो बयान दिया है, वह बहुत विस्तारपूर्वक दिया है। महोदय, मैं ऐसा कोई प्रश्न या स्पष्टीकरण नहीं पूछना चाहूंगा जो मेरे साथी पहले पूछ चुके हैं। मैं केवल यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या दो निजी कंपनियां अपने पारिवारिक झंझट विवाद को निपटाने के लिए देश के प्राकृतिक संसाधनों जैसे गैस, तेल आदि को आपस में बांट सकती हैं? अगर सरकार द्वारा इस तथ्य की अनदेखी हुई है, तो क्या वह उसको जल्द पूरा करेगी, क्योंकि प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर तो देश का अधिकार होता है। इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स मीडिया में प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस करके सरकार की आलोचना की गयी है, जबकि मामला न्यायालय के विचाराधीन है। क्या सरकार उन कंपनियों के विरुद्ध Contempt of Court का मुकदमा दायर करेगी?

मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि क्या संसद के इस सत्र के बाद सरकार कोई अध्यादेश लाएगी, जिससे इस विवाद को विराम मिल सके और देश के बहुमूल्य प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को किसानों और आम जनता की जरूरत के लिए उपलब्ध कराया जा सके?

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, this gas is now an important thing and is going to create problems if the Government does not take up distribution of gas properly. As my friend, Shri Raja was saying, it is in Amlapuram from where late Balayogi was the M.P., and now a young gentlemen is an M.P. from that area. I know, so many times they came and represented to me. Farmers have lost thousands of acres of land because of the activities of the ONGC. The moving vehicles damage roads and create all these problems. So, we have all these sufferings for Andhra. Now, when the gas is available, some gentleman wants to take it to some other place, and some gentleman wants to take it to some place without asking what is the need of Andhra. I know the hon. Minister is a very knowledgeable man; he will definitely look into Andhra needs. But I want to give one example here. Sir 15 years ago, the IFFCO purchased 5000 acres of land, in my district, to start a fertiliser company for South India, not for Andhra alone. At that time, it was stopped because naphtha was a costly affair, and gas was not available for that plant. It was said that it would be commissioned only if gas was made available.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Now, put your question.

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Now, presently, the State has got its own gas. If we don't look into it, if don't look into the Andhra needs, if we don't look into the various aspects of Andhra, how can one take the gas from Andhra? I am not threatening, but the situation is like this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You are not threatening but asking.

DR. N. JANARADHANA REDDY : Sir, that is why I said that this block is going to create problems. Yesterday, the Assembly passed a resolution and the Chief Minister has assured in the House that the needs of Andhrites will be met first and then the gas can be allowed to be taken anywhere. I am not threatening; being an MP, I should not do that. But, I am bringing the reality to the notice of the House and to the hon. Minister. I only request the Minister to inform the House, through which the people of Andhra may know, what he is going to do with the demand of the Andhra people and the rest of the nation. You can give it to U.P. or others. Thank you.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the Minister, in his statement said that with the commencement of the KG's D6 production, over 100 mmscmd gas is being supplied to power and fertilizer sectors out of a total supply of 140 mmscmd. Not only that, he also said, as a result of KG D6 supplies, about 4000 MW additional power is being generated and an annual subsidy of fertilizer to the extent of Rs. 3000 crores is achieved. Such a huge contribution this KG D6 is making. When such a huge profit is provided, out of 140 mmscmd, 100 mmscmd is produced from the KG D6 basin. Then, the people of Andhra Pradesh had been expecting for several years, that taking regional balance into consideration, a considerable amount of gas would be given to the people of Andhra Pradesh, to the factories that are closed down, to the power plants that are starving, to those whose capacities are not fully utilised to their maximum strength. They had been expecting that a considerable amount of gas would be allocated for the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the domestic needs of Andhra Pradesh. I request the hon. Minister to announce in this House that such and such amount of gas is allocated to meet the needs of Andhra Pradesh. Thank you.

SHRI SHANTI RAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa) : Sir, gas is a national asset. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that when an impression is being created openly that it is an issue between two private parties, why did not you assert positively to remove the impression apart from saying that it is a national property? This is the first point. Secondly, is the Government proposing to bring in legislation to regularise the production utilisation and distribution of gas? If so, what time do we expect such a legislation? Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak. I just associate myself with Dr. Janardhana Reddy and Shri Madhu. There is a total unrest in the minds of the people of that region saying that something should be done for the region and, then, the needs of others should also be taken care of.

Sir, I represent a national party, I do not speak of one particular State, but, at the same, every State is a part of the nation. So, keeping that in mind, you should consider it. It is not from the sea, it is from the land and of the farmers of that region. They have given that land. Now this KG D6 is yielding really good results. The Andhra Pradesh Assembly unanimously passed a resolution, political parties are also agitated over this matter and public also is agitated over this matter. I request the hon. Minister to tell what is the thinking of the Government with regard to taking care of the needs of the State, and, then, subsequently take care of the entire nation also. I just wanted to focus on that point.

श्री विजय कुमार रूपाणी (गुजरात) : महोदय, नेचुरल गैस को सरकार ने राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्ति घोषित किया है। नेचुरल गैस के बारे में जो गवर्नमेंट पोलिसी है, उसके बारे में सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ। एक्ज्युअली पॉवर जेनिरेशन में जो नेचुरल गैस की आवश्यकता है, गुजरात के पिपावो में गैस देने का प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी जी ने promise किया था और वहां हम 650 मेगावाट का पॉवर स्टेशन जेनिरेंट कर रहे हैं, आपकी policy अनुसार इसमें वहां से गैस मिलेगी, लेकिन अभी तक गुजरात को वह गैस मिली नहीं है। इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कहना चाहती है और सरकार क्या कर रही है? इस बारे में बताएंगे तो अच्छा रहेगा। दूसरे, यह जो बड़ी कम्पनियां हैं तथा छोटी-छोटी कम्पनियां हैं और स्मॉल एंटरप्राइजेज हैं, उनको गैस कब मिलेगी, और कहां से मिलेगी? यह भी आप बताएं तो ठीक रहेगा। आंध्र प्रदेश को 70 परसेंट प्लांट लोड फैक्टर से गैस मिल रही है, बाकी राज्य को 60 परसेंट गैस मिल रही है। इसलिए बाकी सब राज्यों को भी डिमांड है कि आंध्र प्रदेश को भी 60 परसेंट देना चाहिए। पन्नामुक्ता में गुजरात को जो हिस्सा मिलना चाहिए, वह भी आप तुरंत देंगे, इस बात की हमारी मांग है?

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, the point raised by my colleague, Mr. D. Raja, I just want to add only one sentence to that(Interruptions)... The aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh should not be overlooked while you are allocating it. Even though it is a national asset but the people of Andhra Pradesh expect substantial allocation to be made to the people of Andhra Pradesh. That is the only thing I wanted to submit. Thank you.

श्री गिरिश कुमार सांगी : सर, यह कहावत है कि - दीया तले अंधेरा। They celebrated this gas finding with a great hope that it will change their lives and the area will be developed. The Government of Andhra Pradesh who announced several projects in the vicinity and throughout Andhra Pradesh...(Time bell rings)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KUREIN) : Please put your question.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : My straight question to the hon. Minister is, what percentage of the total gas findings in KG basin will be allocated to Andhra Pradesh and out of the royalty that the Government of India is getting, what will be share of Andhra Pradesh in that royalty?

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (Assam) : Sir, the Government is going to establish a gas project in Assam. So, there is anxiety in the minds of the people about the availability of gas. I would like to know whether gas would be available till the completion of that project. That is my only question.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank my friend, Tapan Sen who was for the last four or five days was following that this subject should be taken up. I am very grateful to him and all the other Members who have participated in this debate. The purpose of submitting such a big note was that there would not be so many replied. But I would like to start with two or three very small points. Sir, 30 years back I was Mayor of Bombay. At that time, we had a man called Dr. N.B. Prasad - - Mr. N.K. Singh would remember him. He was also from Andhra Pradesh. Dr. N.B. Prasad was the Chairman of the ONGC. He came to sign an agreement with the Mayor of Bombay Municipal Corporation for supply of gas from Bombay High to the domestic city of Bombay. Bombay has domestic supply. I remember now only last year Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh, who is sitting here,

inaugurated that supply. It took 31 years for a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed between the then Mayor of Bombay and Dr. N.B. Prasad to be implemented and get the gas in reality. That time, people were reading, "Bombay High Gas", "Bombay High Gas". Today also, "Bombay High" is producing 26 million tons of oil. After, Bombay High, there is a production of only six or seven million tons extra, that is, 31 to 32 million tons which is the total indigenous production of our country. We are importing seventy five per cent of oil.

I would like to first make an appeal to my colleagues here; we must make some schemes or projects, and we should see to it that this oil or gas which is there in the oil fields or in the gas fields, is explored; it comes out. That why the Government started a programme called 'NELP'. I can assure you that the NELP which is now working around the country, and specially, in Andhra Pradesh, etc. is doing very well. More than 50 per cent of the total gas, produced in India, may be coming from this one area of Andhra Pradesh, and if we keep on lending others and saying that this is belonging to him, that is belonging to him, this fellow is in the pocket, this fellow is in another pocket, I do not think, we will do any service to anybody. So, the first and foremost appeal, I would like to make to this House is that we should be proud that such vast reservoirs of, both, oil and gas are available in our country, and, I will be very grateful if the people will give a line to them rather than worrying about what to be done. When I see my friend Sen. I remember, 30 years back or 25 years back, there was a controversy about the ownership or the nationalisation. Sir, at old days of nationalisation have gone. I have even discussed with your Chief Minister, several times, several projects. He does not talk about nationalisation! And you also, Mr. Raja!...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : No, no, no...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : What are you worried about? The nationalisation?(Interruptions)... you are worried about the nationalisation?(Interruptions)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : He is raising about different Chief Ministers. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Mr. Madhu, please take your seat.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am praising him. Are you against the Chief Minister?...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : It is not a question of Chief Minister. Our party policy is for producing...(Interruptions)... Not for private companies.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : That is known to everybody. Please sit down....(Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : So, I am requesting you to please change your party policy, otherwise, you will change the Government from there!...(Interruptions)...

3.00 P.M.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take it lightly. ...*(Interruptions)*.... Why are you taking it seriously? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please take it lightly, Mr. Madhu.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU : I am taking it very lightly. I am trying to apprise the Minister. If they adopt the same tripartite private policy, they will be changed. Next time they will be changed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is this, Mr. Madhu? Such remarks should be taken lightly. What is there?

SHRI MURLI DEORA : मैं मजाक में कहता हूँ, आप क्यों ...*(व्यवधान)*... It is just not possible to reply to every point. Some of them are very, very meaningful; I can assure you, we will take cognisance of that, and we will see that they are implemented. In case somebody wants in writing, I will reply to them in two or three days. But, I will come to the two or three points that are raised now, I would like to read for them, "The State of Andhra Pradesh has a lot of natural resources. Any State which produces so much oil and so much gas, must be given some priority." The Committee, EGoM considered this issue. When we were talking about the priority, when we were talking about the price, this question came and the people of Andhra Pradesh can be rest assured that we will do full justice to the people of Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA : What about Assam?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, please, it is not from Assam. Assam is not the question, please ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't raise it unnecessarily...*(Interruptions)*.. Mr. Moinul Hassan, please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... On Assam, you can have another Motion. Mr. Sanghi, please sit down.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : आप मुझे बोलने दीजिए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... तेल और गैस के भंडार आंध्र प्रदेश में हैं यह वहां से आते हैं, उसके लिए कोई स्पेशल प्रॉविजन करेंगे, उनको पावर के लिए, फर्टिलाइजर के लिए या डोमेस्टिक यूज के लिए तेल और गैस मिलेगी, इसलिए घबराने की कोई बात नहीं है।...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*.. Please ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply. Why don't you allow him to reply? He gave you the reply that Andhra will be taken care of...*(Interruptions)*.. Sit down.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, this is a very vague reply...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, he has not given a proper reply...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : What is this, Sanghi? He has replied to your question first...*(Interruptions)*... Please, sit down.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Sir, the point is...*(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : No, no. It will not go on record.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Whatever Mr. Sanghi says will not go on record....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

SHRI MURLI DEORA : I am replying to your question..*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN : Let him reply. Please, take your seat*(Interruptions)*... Let him reply. Please, take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Sanghi...*(Interruptions)*...it is not going on record.

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : You take your seat. Let him reply.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, the hon. Minister is talking about nationalisation...*(Interruptions)*.. Let him talk about privatisation*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Mr. Tapan Sen, take your seat...*(Interruptions)*... Please take your seat...*(Interruptions)*... What is this? ...*(Interruptions)*... Please, listen to the reply, Mr. Tapan Sen....*(Interruptions)*... You please address the Chair ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't look at them, Mr. Minister ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, hon. Members have raised some very important points....*(Interruptions)*... Please allow me to reply.

Sir, under article 297 of the Constitution, the mineral resources of the country are owned by the Government. Since, E & P business is a highly risky business involving high level of technology and capital and to attract investments in E & P sector, the Government had approved the NELP Policy in 1997 to create a competitive and efficient regime based on award of blocks under international competitive bidding. The main objective of introducing the NELP was to intensify the exploration in the country so that more acreage is put on production to reduce the dependence on import of crude oil & gas by introducing attractive fiscal regime to the investors, both in public and private sector on a level-playing field.

The Government had initiated deregulation of the E & P sector during the year 1991 and made conscious efforts progressively to deregulate it completely by introducing the New Exploration Licensing Policy in 1999. The exploration is a very risky venture requiring high technology and capital, especially in deepwater areas and frontier basins, which require appropriate returns to encourage the companies. Such returns are assured under PSC regime where the contractors are entitled to recover the cost of exploration and development and also share profit petroleum along with the Government. There are cases which may not lead to discovery. In such cases, the investments made by them will not yield returns and these expenditures cannot be charged for cost recovery in any

*Not recorded.

other successfully exploration block. Moreover, the Government has already signed 203 contracts under NELP and 28 PSCs under pre-NELP exploration regime, which are in different stages of development and production. Now, reversing the Government policies would have adverse impact on these PSCs. Hence, the PSCs are required to be honoured in its entirety.

Sir, the price of US \$ 4.20 at crude price of US \$ 60 per barrel is a formula approved by the EGoM. Under the provisions of Production Sharing Contract, the Government has a role in approving the price formula. While approving the price formula, the Government has examined the price formula proposed by the contractor under the PSC and taken into consideration the interest of various sectors, including power, fertilizer, etc. The formula was also subject to scrutiny by the Committee of Secretaries and the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council for which the Chairman was Dr. C. Rangarajan. It was only thereafter the EGoM has approved the price formula with some modifications. It must also be noted that the contractor has made no proposal on the price formula for determining the pricing of supply of gas to be made to NTPC which is required under the PSC. This process not having been undertaken, EGoM's approved price is applicable.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : As regards the court, some hon. Members raised some points...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA : Why is this formula linked with the price of crude oil in the international market? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : It has to be; otherwise, how would it be decided? ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA : It is a domestic product. It is available in our country. Why is there a linkage... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please, please... (Interruptions)...

SHRI MURLI DEORA : The final order of 15th June, 2009 of the Division Bench of the hon. Bombay High Court has implications on the Government's rights to formulate and implement the Gas Utilization Policy under the Production Sharing Contract. Notwithstanding the Government policies and the provisions of the PSC, the Order observes that the provisions of the MoU are binding on the parties. The MoU, as per the judgement, provides that 12 mmsmcd will be given to NTPC, 28 mmsmcd will be given to RNRL and the remaining, at the option of ADAG will be shared between RIL and RNRL in the ratio of 60:40. Under the circumstances, it was necessary to file an SLP in the hon. Supreme Court and, accordingly, action has been taken. I would like to dwell further on the subject but since the matter is *sub judice*, it prohibits me from speaking on this.

We have nothing to do with the private dispute of two industries or industrialists. I repeat, we have nothing to do with the private dispute of the two industrialists or industries. However, we have everything to do with protecting the interests of the Government and also of the public. This is our constitutional and legal obligation to protect the people of India and we will, honestly, honour it. Mr.

Yadav, I am telling you, we will make all endeavours to protect the Government's legal rights to regulate the utilization of gas and its allocation. I am very grateful to all the Members and say that in case any Member has any other query, please send me a note, in two or three days, I will reply to that. Thank you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : Sir, at least one clarification must be allowed; otherwise, there will be no use of making this Calling Attention.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN : At least, one clarification must be allowed, and the hon. Minister must reply, specifically, to that ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Please take your seat. The Minister has already stated in the House that whatever points are not replied here, he will be writing to every Member. He has already committed...(Interruptions).. Now, we will take up further discussion on the rise in prices of essential commodities. Now, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi...(Interruptions)... Yes, Yes, Mr. Sen, he will write to you...(Interruptions)....

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कोई जवाब ही नहीं दिया है...(व्यवधान)... आप पहले से लिखकर लाए हैं...(व्यवधान)...

श्री मुरली देवरा : आप बाहर थे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : Usually, Calling Attention takes one Hour. It has taken more than that...(Interruptions).... He will write to you....(Interruptions)... Please take your seats. I have called Mr. Sanghi. ..(Interruptions)... Mr. Minister, you will reply to every Member, whatever is left. Won't you? ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Gireesh Kumar Sanghi...(Interruptions)... Nothing else will go on record except what Shri Gireesh Kumar is saying.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Situation Arising out of continued rise in prices of essential commodities in the country

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I thank you for having given me the opportunity to express my views on the availability of essential commodities and price rise in the country, which is a very burning subject of discussion. Sir, price rise is a natural phenomenon. Over the years, we have been seeing that either the prices go up or come down. This is based on demand and supply and the market forces. Which apply to this. The Hon. Minister, rightly, state, during his speech in Lok Sabha, that the price rise in our country, when compared to other countries all over the world, is very much in control. The price rise, over the last few years, in our country has been almost to the tune of 16 to 17 per cent, whereas compared to other countries, developed countries also, it was right up to the tune of about 100 per cent.