

### **Strike by petroleum employees**

□2528. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

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

(a) whether Government's plan to bring a legislation to make it illegal for petroleum employees to go on strike has been turned down by the Ministry of Law and Justice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of exact losses suffered by various State- owned oil companies due to strikes etc., in the recent past; and

(d) the strategy to be adopted to ensure that the employees of oil companies do not go on strikes, etc. in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Law and Justice has advised the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to obtain the views of Ministry of Labour.

(c) The estimated loss as reported by the Oil PSUs is Rs.459.67 Crores.

(d) As a preventive strategy, the oil sector PSUs have formulated several proactive interventions, such as, strengthening the consultative approach for prompt resolution of disputes, regular deliberations with the employees collectives, delineating the roles and responsibilities of Officers Association as well as Management for resolving all employees' and welfare related issues, disputes and grievances through process of mutual and constructive dialogue at appropriate level in the company, introduction of Code of Conduct for employees collectives, stricter enforcement of disciplinary rules, inclusion of "Service in any Oilfield" as a "Public Utility Service" by amendment of Section 2(n) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, etc.

### **Expert Committee on price fixation of petroleum products**

□2529. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to constitute a new expert committee for policy making on fixation of consumer sale prices of petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for the above decision and whether a committee along the same line was constituted in past years; and

(d) if so, the time when such committees were constituted and the time by when the new price fixation policy would be made?

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□Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) In the recent Budget speech Government has announced constitution of an Expert Group to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products.

The Government<sup>1</sup> had constituted a High Power Committee to Review the Financial Position of Oil Companies in June, 2008. The Committee submitted its report in July, 2008.

Government is modulating the retail prices of the sensitive petroleum products *i.e.* Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG to protect the consumers from high international oil prices.

Government is closely monitoring the international oil price situation and will take appropriate pricing decisions to protect the interest of the common man, particularly the vulnerable sections of society.

#### **India-Iran gas pipeline**

2530.SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of India-Iran gas pipeline;
- (b) whether Pakistan has agreed to reduce transit fee for gas from Iran to India;
- (c) if so, the details of the transit fee proposed by Pakistan and the reaction of Government thereon;
- (d) the details of the commitment given by Pakistan regarding safety of the India-Iran gas pipeline; and
- (e) by when this gas pipeline agreement is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, *viz.*, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries.

(e) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the Project. Finalization of the agreement can be achieved when satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion is reached by the countries participating in the project, *viz.*, Iran, Pakistan and India. As such, no definite time frame can be indicated for finalization of the agreement.