

development in the area. Hence, efforts are being made to further develop natural gas transportation network in the country, while no specific scheme has been formulated by the Union Government for the same, as of now.

Deregulation of prices of petroleum products

†1744. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

(a) whether fixing of consumer sale prices of petroleum products in the country by Government, is being proposed to be deregulated;

(b) if so, when the proposal came up for consideration and by when it has been decided to be implemented; and

(c) for which petroleum products the fixing of sale price is outside Government control, at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The Government abolished the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) with effect from 1st April 2002 and decided that pricing of all petroleum products, except PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, would be market-determined. In order to provide PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG at affordable prices, the Government formulated subsidy schemes, which are in operation since April 2002.

To protect the consumer and the economy from the increasing price volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices since 2004-05, Government is, however, modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene as an administrative measure.

Except the prices of four sensitive petroleum products, the prices of all other petroleum products are determined by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies, based on commercial considerations.

Exploration of crude oil and natural gas

†1745. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that exploration of reserves of crude oil and natural gas in the country is an ongoing process;

(b) the number of crude oil and natural gas reserves found in the country till June, 2009, with available quantity of crude oil and natural gas; and

(c) the annual average crude oil and natural gas produced by public sector oil companies during the last five years, and the quantity produced in the private sector?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.