

- (c) the monthly requirement of cooking gas in that State;
- (d) the present supply, per month; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to ensure adequate supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no shortage of LPG in the State of Kerala and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Based on actual demand figure for last three months, average monthly demand of LPG in Kerala is 36.76 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) and at present this demand is being fully met.

Deregulation of petrol and diesel prices

973. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

- (a) whether Government has a proposal to deregulate the prices of petrol and diesel;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the deregulation of prices of petroleum products would have any effect on the marketing of petroleum products; and
- (d) if so, to what extent deregulation of prices of petroleum products would be in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) 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 volatility and uncertainty of the international oil prices, Government is, however, modulating the retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products; namely Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene.

Gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan

974. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Iran and Pakistan have signed an agreement to lay a gas pipeline for taking Iranian gas to Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this agreement included an article that would allow India to join the project at an appropriate time; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) According to official statements and media accounts, the Inter-Governmental Framework Declaration (IGFD) to support the IPI gas pipeline project has been signed between Iran and Pakistan. Further, Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement (GSPA) between Iran and Pakistan has been concluded. Specifics of either IGFD or GSPA have not been made public.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Leakages in Oil Plants

975. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether leakages in some oil well recently caused panic at some plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, plant-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Madam.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, does not arise.

Fuel problems in Thermal Power Stations

976. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's 36 per cent thermal power stations are facing acute fuel problem and are operating on coal stocks of less than a week, coinciding with summer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh, power station-wise; and
- (c) whether an action plan has been prepared to tackle such issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The coal supply position of thermal power stations in the country is not comfortable. As on 6th July 2009, out of total 78 coal based utility thermal power stations monitored by Central Electricity Authority on daily basis, 31 power stations were 'critical' having a coal stock of less than 7 days, out of which 10 power stations were 'supercritical' having a coal stock of less than 4 days. The All India Coal Stock was 11.055 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 MT. Station-wise details of coal stock including power stations of Andhra Pradesh are enclosed as statement (See below).

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government of India to enhance supply of coal to power stations:

- (i) Regular monitoring of supply of coal to Thermal Power Stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.
- (ii) Import of coal to the tune of 28.7 MT has been envisaged during 2009-10 to bridge the gap between requirement of coal and its availability from the domestic sources.
- (iii) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers / utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.