

- (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?