

(b) The Government has rationalized the Custom Duty and the Excise Duty on Petrol and Domestic LPG, as per the details given below:

(i) Customs Duty on Petrol has been gradually reduced from 15% to 2.5% between August 2004 to June 2008.

(ii) Ad-valorem Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol has been gradually reduced from 26% in June 2004 to Nil in March 2008, and converted to Specific Duty.

(iii) Specific Excise Duty on unbranded Petrol has further been reduced by Re. 1 per litre in June 2008.

(iv) Custom Duty on Domestic LPG, which was 10% in August 2004, has been brought down to NIL in March, 2005.

(v) Excise Duty on Domestic LPG, which was 16% in June 2004, has also been brought down to NIL in March 2005.

(c) The price of Aviation Turbine Fuel, at Delhi, effective 16.11.2009 is Rs.40,422.62 per kilolitre.

Fire at IOC fuel depot at Jaipur

558. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether a massive fire broke out at the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) fuel depot at Jaipur resulting loss of lives and properties;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the preliminary investigations into the cause of the massive fire at IOC fuel depot have been conducted;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed on major incident and steps taken by Government to avoid such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The fire at POL depot of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at Sanganer Jaipur started at around 1915 P.M. on 29 October, 2009. It is estimated that petroleum products worth approx. Rs. 191 crore were lost and the replacement cost of IOC buildings and machinery is estimated to be over Rs. 160 crore. The product is insured and the time frame for rebuilding the infrastructure at the terminal would be about two years. 11 deaths have been confirmed of which 6 are employees of IOC. 7 persons have suffered serious injuries. The blasts in the Depot have damaged the roof, window panes and walls of nearby factories, shopping complex, some residential buildings, etc.

(c) to (e) A seven member inquiry committee under the chairmanship of Shri M.B. Lal, Ex-Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited was constituted by the Ministry on 30.10.2009 to inquire into the causes of the incident and to suggest remedial measures to

prevent recurrence of such incidents. The committee will submit its report within 60 days. Preliminary findings have indicated that there was massive leakage of Motor Spirit (MS) from the valve of one of the tank, which led to formation of vapor cloud. Spark from an unknown source resulted in explosion of the vapor cloud, which started the fire in all the 11 tanks of the depot.

In order to take preventive steps so that such incidents do not occur in future, the Ministry had convened a meeting on 3.11.2009, to review the safety and security at oil & gas installations in the country, which was attended by the Chief Executive Officers of all public and major private oil companies having installations in the country. It was decided that the following actions will be taken:

1. All companies shall take measures to promote safety consciousness and training on safety requirement at all levels. The message of zero tolerance in matters of safety has to be conveyed to all concerned.

2. All oil and gas installations and transportation systems in the country will carry out self safety audit conforming to statutory norms and risk assessment, including Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) standards by 31.12.2009. Oil companies will submit the reports to OISD which in turn will submit a consolidated report to MOPNG.

3. The decision taken in the 27th Meeting of safety Council held on 18th September 2009 in MOPNG regarding empowerment of OISD with statutory status would be expedited. OISD will be further strengthened with additional manpower from oil companies.

4. The Safety Council be expanded to include private sector refineries and offshore & other installations.

5. All oil and gas companies in the country must update their standard operating procedures (SOPs) for operations and maintenance practices for all countrywide installations / setups under due technical supervision and attention, availing the benefit of best practices in the country and abroad. A strict implementation of such Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) will be ensured. All oil and gas companies will submit reports on SOPs and its due implementation to OISD by 31.12.2009.

6. All oil and gas installations will have their safety audit done on quarterly basis. All major as well as minor incidents in any such installations/setups in the country including that of private companies will be reported to OISD.

Rural LPG Scheme

559. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has surpassed targets set for first 100 days of Government by rolling out path breaking rural LPG scheme, raising oil and gas output and laying of road map for expanding city gas services;