

Allocation of natural gas for fertilizers units

1300. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the steps taken by his Ministry to allocate natural gas to fertilizers producing units of our country, as delay in gas allocation has an adverse impact on the fertilizers sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): In the meeting of Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Pricing and Commercial Utilization of Gas under NELP held on May 28, 2008, it was decided to give the highest priority to existing gas-based urea plants in allocation of KG D6 gas. In compliance of the decision, 15.33 mmscmd gas was allocated to existing gas-based urea plants to meet their existing shortfall to enable their full capacity utilization. Subsequently, in the meeting of EGoM held on October 27, 2009, allocation of 0.178 mmscmd gas has been made to Deepak Fertilizers, the only existing gas-based plant producing subsidized fertilizers other than urea.

Regarding demand emanating beyond 2008-09 from de-bottlenecking of and expansion of fertilizer plants, conversion of Naphtha based and fuel oil based fertilizer plants and revival of closed fertilizer plants, it was decided in the EGoM meeting held on May 28, 2008 that it would be given the highest priority at that stage and will be met from production in subsequent years. Further, in the EGoM meeting held on 27.10.2009, it was also decided that such plants would be supplied natural gas as and when they are ready to utilize the gas.

Cess on sale of petroleum products

†1301. 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 cess is being charged on the sale of diesel and petrol from the consumers in order to mobilise funds for construction of roads in the country;

(b) if so, the rate at which cess is being charged and the funds collected in this way till December, 2010;

(c) whether it is a fact that highways are now being constructed in the country on public and private participation model;

(d) if so, whether Government has decided to stop charging this cess from consumers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Road Transport

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and Highways has informed that at present, an Additional Excise Duty of Rs. 2/- per litre on Petrol and Diesel is levied. The collection on this account is credited to the Consolidated Fund of India and thereafter, Parliament, by appropriation, credits such proceeds after adjusting cost of collection to the Central Road Fund (CRF). The CRF is, thereafter, distributed by the Planning Commission amongst three Ministries *i.e.* Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways in the manner prescribed under Section 10 (viii) of the Central Road Fund Act, 2000. The revenue realized on this account is Rs. 3,421 crore and Rs. 10,280 crore on Petrol and Diesel respectively during the year 2009-10 (upto January, 2010).

(c) The construction and expansion of projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase III and onwards is undertaken on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis with Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) as the preferred mode.

(d) to (e) Ministry of Finance has informed that at present, there is no proposal under consideration to withdraw the above stated additional Duties on Petrol and Diesel.

CAG's scrutiny of RIL accounts

1302. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) approached the Ministry's help in getting complete access to Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) financial records and computer data pertaining to its gas producing Krishna-Godavari basin (KG-D6);

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards inflated capital expenditure made by RIL; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and steps taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry took up the matter with the operators of KG-D6 block immediately. The Principal Director of Audit Economic and Service Ministries (PDA ESM) has conveyed through their letter dated 12.02.2010 that there has been progress in receipt of requisitioned documents etc. with regard to access to the records/documents in respect of KG-D6 block.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Regulation of selling prices of petroleum products

†1303. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.