

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Manipur	9	NR	9
22.	Nagaland	11	NR	11
23.	Rajasthan	33	32	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	31	43	0
25.	Tripura	4	4	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	70	70	1
27.	Uttarakhand	13	14	4
28.	West Bengal	19	35	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	NR	2
30.	Chandigarh	1	NR	1
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	NR	1
32.	Daman and Diu	2	NR	2
33.	Delhi	9	NR	9
34.	Lakshadweep	1	NR	1
35.	Puducherry	4	2	2
TOTAL :		626	617	111

NR: Not Reported.

Alternative source of gas supply

*177. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the negotiations in respect of the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline project; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by India to augment its gas supply from Central Asian countries, which were formerly part of the erstwhile Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in case the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline proposal does not materialise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) In order to enhance energy security of the country, import of natural gas is being pursued from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues concerning the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries, viz., Iran, Pakistan and

India. Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the project. Implementation of the Project will start only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion amongst the countries participating in the Project.

Import of natural gas is being pursued from Turkmenistan as well. India has been formally admitted as a member of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project in the 10th Steering Committee Meeting (SCM) of the Project held in Islamabad on April 23-24, 2008. Various important issues concerning the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries, viz., Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

Customs duty on import of ships

*178. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any representation to reduce the customs duty from 5 per cent to 0 per cent on import of ships for recycling;

(b) whether Government is considering to boost production of secondary steel from ship recycling in view of the rise in steel price; and

(c) whether Government is aware that high customs duty in ship recycling at Alang in comparison to duty on melting scrap is crippling the local industry?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) No, Sir. The steel sector in India is deregulated with Government playing the role of facilitator.

(c) While the Government had received representations that the customs duty of 5% on ships for breaking was adversely affecting the domestic industry, there has been no decline in the number of ships for breaking.

Decline in production of medicinal plants

†*179. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the yield of several rare medicinal plants is going down in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the rare medicinal plants being found during the last decade;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has formulated a scheme to enhance the production of herbal plants in the country; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.