

Rs. 8,364 crore to the OMCs for their under-recoveries on Petrol and Diesel by way of discount on crude oil/products during the first three quarters of 2009-10.

(c) The Government has not taken a decision on the implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

Deepwater gas pipeline project

1313. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for natural gas pipeline *via* Pakistan is getting bogged down with security concerns and Government is considering a proposal to bring gas from the Middle East through a deep sea pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed South Asia Gas Enterprises Pvt. Ltd's deep water pipeline would be routed through the exclusive economic zones of the transit countries thereby ensuring the security of supply;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is expected to transport 30 million cubic meter gas per day the same value that Iran earmarked for India in proposed Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (e) India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues, *viz.*, pricing of gas, delivery point of gas, project structure, security of supplies, payment of transportation tariff and transit fees for passage of natural gas through Pakistan, etc., are under discussion amongst the participating countries. 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.

In recent years, there have been significant technological advancements in the field of Deep Sea Gas transportation technology. Accordingly, for the last few years, interest has been revived in deep sea gas pipeline route from Middle-East to India. Gas supplies from several gas rich countries of Middle East through Gas Gathering pipeline with hub in Oman (or its proximity) have been proposed, so as to supply gas to Indian Coast through the said Deep Sea Pipeline. GAIL (India) Ltd. has entered into a Principles of Cooperation with M/s SAGE in the month of July, 2009 for developing the pipeline Project. As such, the proposal is at its initial stage.