

- (a) Periodic reduction in PDS Kerosene allocation.
- (b) Increase in prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG from time to time.
- (c) Mopping up a portion of the incremental revenue accruing to ONGC/OIL from production in those blocks, which were given by the Government on nomination basis.
- (d) Providing cash subsidy from the Budget to meet the remaining gap.

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

Proposal to de-control petroleum prices

2099. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal for de-control of petroleum prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether competent agencies have made any assessment on the impact on the prices of products in the post de-control period; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Expert Group constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Kirit Parikh to advise on a Viable and Sustainable System of Pricing of Petroleum Products has recommended, inter-alia, that the prices of Petrol and Diesel should be market-determined, both at the refinery gate and at the retail level. The Government has not taken a decision on implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

Rural business hubs

2100. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PANCHAJATI RAJ be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government considers to implement a scheme of Rural Business Hubs (RBHs) for promoting manufacturing of products using raw materials available in rural areas for exporting them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the districts covered under the scheme;
- (c) whether Government has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with any financial organization to enhance export possibilities of products sources from RBHs, and