

(b) if so, whether the GAIL had informed that the gas pipeline does not fall under the list of utilities;

(c) if so, whether steps will be taken to include gas pipeline as a utility; and

(d) whether these steps will be taken without any delay since the laying of pipeline on the NHAI stretch falls under Phase-1 of the project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) GAIL (India) Ltd. is laying Kochi-Kootanad-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline for evacuation of gas from Kochi Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal. Phase-I of the pipeline includes 26 km stretch from Kochi to Alwaye. This involves laying about 15 km gas pipeline stretch from Vallarpadam to Kalamassery along the National Highway. GAIL (India) Ltd. has applied to National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for permission for the same.

(b) No sir. Gas pipelines come under the list of utilities for which Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has a policy for accommodation along and across National Highways.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Leprosy cases in India

*271. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India accounts for the highest number of new leprosy cases in the world; and

(b) if so, the steps Government has taken or proposes to take to eliminate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The goal of leprosy elimination (*i.e.* prevalence rate of less than 10 cases per lakh population) has been achieved at the National Level in December, 2005. However, the strategy of early detection and treatment of leprosy cases with multi-drug therapy (MDT) is being intensified to further reduce the burden of leprosy from current level of 7 cases per lakh population.

Losses suffered by petro companies

†*272. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading petro companies are running in loss;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (c) the main reasons for losses being incurred by petro companies;
- (d) whether Government is formulating any plan to compensate losses of oil companies;
and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) The Profit after Tax of the major petroleum companies namely, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) during the last three years are given below:

	(Rs. in Crore)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
ONGC	15643	16702	16126
OIL	1640	1789	2162
GAIL	2387	2601	2804
IOCL	7499	6963	2950
BPCL	1806	1581	736
HPCL	1571	1135	575

(c) to (e) The retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are not being maintained in line with the international oil prices. Due to this, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) incur under-recoveries on the sale of these products. During the year 2009-10 (April-December 2009), the OMCs have incurred under-recoveries of Rs.29,353 crore on the sale of sensitive petroleum products.

Government has been following an equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism, to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries is shared by all the stakeholders; namely the Government, the Public Sector Oil Companies and the consumers.

Under the burden sharing mechanism, Ministry of Finance have confirmed a budgetary support of Rs.12,000 crore as the share of the Government towards meeting the under-recoveries for the year 2009-10. The PSU Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed 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.

Diversion of KG basin gas

*273. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: