

Comparative costs of petro-products in SAARC countries

990. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that LPG, petrol and diesel is cheaper in India as compared to neighbouring SAARC countries according to a survey compiled by the Ministry;
- (b) if so, what are the comparative rates after equalizing various currencies;
- (c) whether Government has compared rates of taxes in neighbouring countries on petroleum products;
- (d) if so, the details of taxes on various petroleum products in neighbouring countries; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Retail Selling Prices of sensitive petroleum products viz. Petrol, Diesel and LPG in India and neighbouring countries as of 1st July, 2010 in terms of Indian Rupee are given below:—

	Petrol Rs./litre	Diesel Rs./litre	LPG (14.2 kg.) Rs./cyl.
India *	51.45	37.62	345.35
Sri Lanka	47.32	29.88	768.91
Pakistan	35.77	39.21	576.68
Nepal	50.85	39.21	775.54
Bangladesh	49.70	29.41	536.91

Note: Data on neighbouring countries as provided by IOC.

*RSP at Delhi as on 20th July, 2010.

While prices of Petrol and Diesel are broadly comparable to those in the neighbouring countries, price of Domestic LPG in India is by far cheapest in India.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The levying of taxes in a particular country depends upon various factors, including its socio-economic and political conditions. Since these conditions vary from country to country, a comparison of tax rates may not be appropriate.

Shortage of cooking gas in Himachal Pradesh

†991. SHRIMATI BIMLA KASHYAP SOOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is still acute shortage of cooking gas in most

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of the districts of Himachal Pradesh and thousands of people are on the waiting list;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to overcome the shortage by augmenting supply of gas and to open new gas agencies in the State; and

(c) the reasons for delay in opening proposed new gas agency in Chirgaon of Shimla district which was proposed four or five years back?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) There is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the State of Himachal Pradesh and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported that as on 06.01.2010 they are serving 13.86 lakh customers through their 126 LPG distributors in the State of Himachal Pradesh, covering almost entire population of the State. OMCs have released 0.09 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the period April-May, 2010.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 91.76 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2009-10 as against 86.73 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth of 5.80%.

Further, during 2009-10, five new LPG distributorships have been commissioned in the markets of Kotli, Haripurthar, Solan, Ghuggar (Palampur) and Killar. One more LPG distributorship is ready for commissioning at Kotkhai, District Shimla. OMCs are committed to open new LPG distributorships to reach LPG to under-covered areas.

(c) IOC has reported that the Letter of Intent (LoI) was issued to M/s. Himachal Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation Limited (HPSCSC Ltd.) for the location Chirgaon on 06.11.2003. The delay in commissioning of the distributorship is due to delay in construction of LPG shortage godown by M/s. HPSCSC Ltd.

Revenue generation from sale of petro-products

992. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether taxes on petroleum products constitute the biggest chunk of revenue for Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that in 2010-11 the contribution of these taxes is expected to be to the tune of a whopping Rs. 1,20,000 crore or nearly four times the claimed subsidy; and