

To mitigate the problems of such consumers, the Government have recently launched a scheme under which a consumer can opt/indicate his desired day/time for taking delivery of the refill.

The consumer has been advised to avail benefit of this scheme and get the delivery of LPG refill at his desired day/time.

#### **Discount on purchase of high speed diesel to Indian railways**

249. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the oil marketing companies (OMCs) give any discount for purchase of high speed diesel by the Indian Railways;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the details of diesel procured by Indian Railways during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10; and
- (d) the reasons for extending discount by the OMCs to the Railways especially when they are running in loss due to sale of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) give discount of Rs.300/- per Kilo Litre for purchase of High Speed Diesel (HSD) to Indian Railways. Discount has been given against a rate contract placed by Railway Board from 01.01.2009 and is continued as per renewal of the rate contract.

(c) The details of diesel procured by Indian Railways from OMCs during the last three years are given below:

Year	Quantity (Thousand KL)
2007-08	2451
2008-09	2583
2009-10	2699
Total	7733

(d) Discounts are offered for protection of volume in overall business interest. Further, OMCs save on distribution costs in the case of direct sales.

#### **Review on ethanol pricing policy**

250. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has reviewed ethanol pricing policy and its implementation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any representation towards Government's ethanol policy; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Various industrial associations dealing with alcohol/ethanol viz. Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA), Ethanol Manufacturers Association of India (EMAI) and Indian Chemical Council (ICC) etc. have been making representations towards implementation of Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme. They have been making varying projections about the availability of ethanol in the country. While ISMA and EMAI are optimistic about the availability of required quantity of ethanol for even 10% level of EBP Programme and insisting for its mandatory implementation. Whereas, ICC has pointed out that with blending of ethanol in EBP Programme, there would be an acute shortage of ethanol in the country leading to closure of Chemical Industry. Government has constituted a Committee of Experts to recommend the principles/formula for pricing of ethanol.

#### **Decontrolling of petroleum prices**

251. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has accepted Kirit Parikh's report on decontrolling petroleum prices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) In the light of the recommendations made by the Kirit Parikh Committee on a Viable and Sustainable Pricing System of Petroleum Products, the prices of Petrol and Diesel have been made market-determined with effect from 26.6.2010. As a result, the price of Petrol went up by Rs.3.50 per litre. In the case of Diesel, however, it was decided that for the present, the price