

consumption of natural gas (including KG D6 gas) does not exceed 50,000 scmd, 2.165 million metric standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) of KG D6 gas has been allocated to various CGD entities,

Further, the CGD entities as well as SMEs, are free to contract Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from *inter alia* GAIL (India) Ltd., Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL), as adequate capacity for LNG re-gasification exists in the country.

#### **Lifting of Government control on diesel prices**

†896. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council has advised to lift Government control on diesel prices at the earliest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that with the implementation of this advice, the retail prices of diesel are likely to be increase; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In an interview to a newspaper on 20th October, 2010 Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister in response to a specific question is learnt to have observed that "the deregulation of the Diesel prices is a natural corollary to the deregulation of Petrol. Otherwise, it will create price distortions. The best time for doing this will be when inflation starts coming down".

The Government has taken a decision 'in principle' to make the price of Diesel market-determined, both at the Refinery Gate and Retail level. However, Government has initially increased the retail selling price of Diesel by Rs. 2/- per litre with effect from 26th June 2010 (at Delhi) with corresponding increases in the rest of the country.

#### **Complaints regarding malpractices by gas agencies**

897. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.