

Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline project

†1520. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is taking steps to revive the Myanmar- Bangladesh-India (MBI) gas pipeline project; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made after these new efforts in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Time bound reforms in the energy sector

1521. DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is making time bound reforms in the energy sector enabling the people to have the less costly oil and gas by the policy of allowing foreign players to compete with PSUs in the domestic market; and

(b) if so, whether the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is allowed to work fully by notifying all the provisions of the PNGRB Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) The Government vide its resolution dated 8th March 2002 laid down detailed guidelines for granting authorization to market transportation fuels, namely, Motor Spirit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD) and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to new entrants, including the private sector. The authorization to market transportation fuels, as per these guidelines is available to a company investing or proposing to invest Rs. 2000 crores in the specified categories. The details are as under :-

- (i) Companies investing or proposing to invest Rs. 2000 crore in exploration and production, refining, pipelines or terminals may be granted authorization to market MS, HSD and ATF.
- (ii) Eligible investments would be in setting up new refineries, expansion of existing refineries, exploration and production of hydrocarbons including coal bed methane, and associated facilities (like crude oil/natural gas pipelines and processing plants, terminals for crude oil/LNG, common carrier, natural gas/petroleum products/LPG pipelines and investments in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.