(g) A refinery can be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on its techno-commercial viability.

Gas availabilities in the TAPI gas pipeline project

2284. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project;

(b) the prospects of bringing the littoral and neighbouring States of the Caspian Sea, into the project as earlier proposed by India to augment gas availabilities in the TAPI pipeline; and

(c) whether India is concerned that bilateral agreements between Turkmenistan and its neighbours, including Russia and Iran, might deprive TAPI of its gas requirement to the detriment of India's energy security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Government is pursuing the import of natural gas from Turkmenistan through TAPI gas pipeline project. Various important issues concerning the Project, viz., delivery point, project structure, security of supplies, etc. are under discussion amongst the participating countries. Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) has been initialled by the Ministers of the participating countries, including India, during 11th meeting of Steering Committee of TAPI Gas Pipeline Project held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on September 20, 2010.

(b) and (c) As per the 3rd party Gas Reserve Certificate provided by Turkmenistan, adequate gas reserves are available in Turkmenistan to meet the requirement of gas for TAPI Gas Pipeline Project.

Financial position of Public Sector Oil companies

2285. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the financial position of the public sector oil companies during 2010-11 as on date with comparison to 2009-10, company-wise;

(b) the profit margin of the public sector oil companies during 2010-11 till date, company-wise;

(c) whether the oil companies have sought revision of the prices of their petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Profit after Tax (PAT) of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) during the first half of 2010-11 and 2009-10 is given as under:

(₹ Crore)

Company	2010-11	2009-10	2009-10
	April-September, 2010	April-September, 2009	
Public Sector OMCs			
IOCL *	1,906	3,967	10,221
BPCL *	424	455	1,538
HPCL *	205	512	1,301
Total	2,535	4,934	13,060

* Profit of OMCs are after taking into account financial support from upstream oil companies and the Government.

The OMCs are incurring under-recoveries on the sale of sensitive petroleum products as the retail selling prices have not been maintained in line with the corresponding prices in the international markets. The OMCs could report these profits only as a result of getting their under-recoveries from the Government and the public sector Upstream Oil Companies.

(c) and (d) The OMCs have been writing to the Government highlighting their mounting under-recoveries on the sale of Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. To address the issue, the Government has been following a 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 in the following manner:

(i) Government through issuance of Oil Bonds/cash assistance;

(ii) Upstream oil companies namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) by way of price discount on Crude oil and products;

(iii) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), by absorbing a part of the under-recoveries, and

(iv) Price increases for the consumers, from time to time.

During the period April-September, 2010, the under-recoveries of the OMCs' have been compensated in the following manner:

(₹ crore)

	April-September 2010
Under-recovery on sensitive petroleum products	31,367
Burden sharing* through:	
- Cash assistance provided by the Government	13,000
- Upstream assistance	10,456
- Balance under recovery borne by OMCs	7,911

* Provisional. The burden sharing for 2010-11 will be finalized towards the end of the financial year.

Royalty paid for crude oil extracted form the wells in Assam

2286. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has declared new oil blocks recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of oil production expected to be supplied by such oil blocks in Assam;

(d) the total quantity of crude oil extracted from the wells in Assam in the last three years; and

(e) the payment of royalty to the State Government of Assam for the purpose of extracting crude oil from the region during the last three years?