

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to transport natural gas from Iran/Middle East through Pakistan is still hanging in uncertainty;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and the stumbling blocks in accomplishing the proposal; and

(c) the details of steps being taken to expedite the implementation of the pipeline transportation project?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The proposal for import of natural gas through a transnational on-land pipeline from Iran to India transiting through Pakistan was recently discussed at the highest level between the two countries. It has been decided to initiate conversation without commitment on this prospect in the overall context of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. A meeting of the Petroleum/Gas Ministers of the two countries is envisaged in this regard. The Indian Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas held a conversation without commitment in Tehran with his Iranian counterpart on 5th-6th December, 2004. The issue was also touched upon during the Minister's call on the Prime Minister of Pakistan on 24.11.2004.

Cost of production of petrol and diesel

†1261. **SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:**
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that diesel and petrol are produced within the country as per the requirement of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have assessed the production cost of the said petro-products; and

(d) if so, the estimated average production cost during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The details of production and consumption of petrol and diesel in the country during 2003-04 are as under:—

Thousand Metric Tonnes(TMT)

Product	Production	Consumption
Petrol	11211.0	7879.0
Diesel	43129.0	37074.0

(c) and (d) Oil refining is a continuous process and the cost of refining of individual petroleum products is not worked out separately because all products are produced together. However, weighted average refinery transfer prices during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 were as follows:—

(Rs./KL)

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Petrol	8264.83	10579.21	11636.36
Diesel	9624.89	11422.53	11826.71

Subsidy on LPG and kerosene

†1262. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

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

(a) whether Government provide subsidy on L.P.G. and kerosene oil;

(b) if so, the amount of subsidy being provided at present on L.P.G. and kerosene oil;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to reduce this subsidy gradually;

(d) if so, whether Government have formulated any separate scheme for protecting the persons living below poverty line from its impact; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.