

Study on measures to tackle black money

2127. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two study groups have been set up to look into different aspects of tackling black money ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to get a fresh study conducted on unaccounted income/wealth both inside and outside the country bringing out the nature of activities engendering money laundering and its ramifications on national security. The study will be conducted by designated nodal agencies with inputs from various ministries/departments.

The Government has also constituted a committee to examine the feasibility of bringing a suitable scheme for disclosure of information by persons about undisclosed assets and income outside India.

Ethanol mixed petrol

†2128. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that ethanol is being used for mixing with petrol in the country ;

(b) if so, whether cost of petrol comes down by this process ; and

(c) if so, the extent of annual economic gains to the country's Government oil marketing companies between the years 2008-09 and 2010-11 till date through this method?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. At present Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme is operational in 13 States, and 3 Union Territories of the country .

The annual economic gains to the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) during the years 2008-09 and 2009-10 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	BPCL	HPCL	IOCL
2008-09	35.47	31.32	64.10
2009-10	8.01	4.53	9.10

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi .

As for the year 2010-11, since the procurement of ethanol is at an *ad-hoc* rate subject to adjustment with respect to the final price to be determined, the quantum of gain/loss can not be ascertained at this point of time.

Frequent increase in prices of petroleum products

2129. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 11 months, the prices of petroleum products have been revised upwards 11 times;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the benchmark for effecting the increase in price and on dates when prices were increased in India; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reduce production cost of petrol, diesel and LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) In the light of the recommendations made by the Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kirit S. Parikh to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing of petroleum products, the price of Petrol was made market-determined effective 26th June, 2010 by the Government. Government had taken an 'in principle' decision that the price of Diesel will be made market-determined, both at Refinery Gate and Retail Level. However, Government had initially allowed an increase in the retail selling price of Diesel by only Rs. 2/- per litre with effect from 26th June, 2010 (at Delhi), with corresponding increases in the rest of the country. The retail prices of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG were also increased by Rs. 3 per litre and by Rs. 35 per cylinder with effect from 26th June, 2010 (at Delhi) respectively, with corresponding increases in the rest of the country. The details of increase/decrease in the prices of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG (at Delhi) since April, 2010 and corresponding crude oil prices in the international market are given in the Statement (See below).

The retail prices of Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene are modulated by the Government and after 26th June, 2010 their prices have not been revised. However, based on the Refinery Gate Price, applicable from 1st March, 2011, the OMCs are incurring under-recovery of Rs. 11.16 per litre on Diesel, Rs. 23.56 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs. 297.80 per cylinder on Domestic LPG. The Government is keeping a close watch on the price situation.

(d) Cost of petroleum products primarily depends on the cost of crude oil, which constitutes a major portion of the cost. Since India imports about 80% of its crude oil requirements, the international oil prices necessarily have a bearing on the domestic prices of