

viz., Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG. Since the crude oil prices have increased significantly in the recent past, the Oil Marketing Companies are incurring under-recovery of 9.55/litre on Diesel, of 20.57litre on PDS Kerosene and of 356.07/cylinder on Domestic LPG, which has not been passed on to the consumers.

Gas for infrastructure projects

116. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is increasing the availability of firm gas sourcing for infrastructure projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to enhance availability of natural gas in the country, consisting, *inter alia*, of the following:

- (i) Intensification of domestic Exploration & Production (E&P) activities through New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) rounds;
- (ii) Coal Bed Methane (CBM) E&P activities;
- (iii) Underground Coal Gasification;
- (iv) Gas Hydrates;
- (v) Import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from various countries; and
- (vi) Transnational pipelines, viz., Turkmenistan - Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline and Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline.

Government's endeavour has been to accord the highest priority to existing gas-based infrastructure projects in the matter of allocation of natural gas. With the commencement of production from KG D6 field, indigenous production of natural gas has increased by around 80%. As regards allocation from KG D6 field, power plants within Andhra Pradesh have been made allocations to operate at 75% Plant Load Factor (PLF) and those outside Andhra Pradesh to operate at 70% PLF. In addition, 12 mmscmd has been allocated to power sector on fallback basis to enable all these plants to operate at 90% PLF.