

(e) if so, the outcome of the discussion held with Turkmenistan and whether any final agreement for gas pipeline project has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Meeting of 14th Technical Working Group under TAPI Gas Pipeline Project which was held in Manila, Philippines from May 30 to June 3, 2011 was attended by representatives from all the participating countries, namely, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan & India and Asian Development Bank, the lead development partner of the Project. During the meeting discussions were held to finalize Gas Sale Purchase Agreement (GSPA) and also regarding appointment of transaction advisor for the Project.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) Maintaining high rate of GDP growth will require higher energy consumption.

(d) During 2010-11 around 167 million standard cubic meter per day (mmscmd) natural gas was available for consumption in the country, including 35 mmscmd of Regasified LNG (RLNG) from LNG import which is 21% of the total gas availability in the country. As per the available trends, the RLNG will have to be imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply in near future.

As far as oil is concerned, during 2010-11, 163.5 million metric tonne (mmt) of crude oil was imported, which is about 84% of total crude oil processed during 2010-11. On account of slow growth of domestic production of crude oil and higher annual domestic demand for petroleum products, the dependency on oil import is projected to increase in the future.

(e) Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) and Gas Pipeline Framework Agreement (GPFA) under the Project were signed between the countries participating in the Project, including India in December 2010.

Deep water oil and gas explorations

291. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that entry of major players having experience in deep water oil and gas explorations will prove to be a major boost to energy resources of the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that entry of such major players is being blocked citing security concerns;

(c) whether Government is aware that such hurdles will cost billions of dollars to the exchequer; and

(d) if so, what steps Government is contemplating to ensure that approvals for such deals in deep water oil and gas explorations are expedited in national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, sir, Entry of major players having deep water experience in hydrocarbon exploration under NELP rounds of bidding will definitely boost energy security in the country.

(b) to (d) Oil & Gas blocks under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) are awarded on International Competitive Bidding system after obtaining clearances from all concerned. All Exploration & Production Companies (Indian or Foreign) including major players are facilitated by MoP&NG (Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) for all statutory clearances including security clearances for smooth E&P (Exploration Production) activities in the awarded blocks.

Proposal to curtail taxes on petro-products

292. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times of prices of petroleum products i.e. petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG have been increased during the last two years, month-wise, and extent of rise;

(b) the reasons for the increase in each case;

(c) whether Government has written or proposed to State Governments to curtail State taxes to give relief to the consumers; and

(d) the States which have acceded to the proposals of the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The details of increase in retail selling prices (RSPs) of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG (at Delhi) during the last two years are given below: