

India imports about 83% of its crude oil requirements. Since crude oil alone constitutes more than 90% of the cost of production of petroleum products, it would be untenable to argue that the price hikes of petroleum products could be reduced through the management of expenditure.

The international price of the Indian Basket of Crude oil has been rising consistently with the average price of the Indian basket of crude oil increased from \$ 69.76/bbl in 2009-10 to \$ 112.28/bbl (average for the period from 01.04.2011 to 11.08.2011) during the current year. The Government does not have any control on the international prices of crude oil and petroleum products, which are influenced by several factors including demand and supply conditions in the world.

However, in order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices, the Government continues to modulate the prices of Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, resulting in under-recoveries to the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The OMCs are presently incurring under-recovery of Rs. 6.06 per litre on the sale of Diesel, Rs. 23.74 per litre on the sale of PDS Kerosene and Rs. 247 per cylinder of Domestic LPG as per the Refinery Gate Price effective 1.8.2011. As a result, the OMCs are incurring daily under-recovery of Rs. 246 crore and are expected to incur total under-recovery of Rs. 1,21,915 crore on sale of these three sensitive petroleum products during 2011-12.

Impact of female foeticide on sex-ratio

†*203. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that gender gap is widening due to unabated female foeticide going on in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that in the coming days, several serious consequences are feared to surface on account of unabated female foeticide; and
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to check female foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes Sir, as per the 2011 Census (provisional), the child sex ratio has declined from 927 in 2001 to 914 in 2011.

(b) A skewed sex-ratio may have negative consequences affecting the overall status of women in society, including increased insecurity and violence against women. The manifestations of adverse sex ratio could also result in undesirable social practices such as polyandry and women trafficking.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to check female foeticide which includes legislative measures, awareness generation as well as programmes for socio-economic empowerment of women. The steps taken by the Government include enactment of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994, further amended in 2003, to prevent the misuse of medical diagnostic technology for illegal sex determination leading to female foeticide.

Diversion of agricultural loan

*204. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the news-item which appeared in the Tribune dated 14 April, 2011 stating that Chandigarh took Rs. 3,990 crore farm loan in nine months; and

(b) if so the details of facts in this regard and the steps taken by Government to check the diversion of agriculture loan for other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) However, the fact is that the major part of loan has been disbursed by various banks to different Corporations of State Governments of Haryana & Punjab related to agricultural activities. These Corporations were utilizing the funds for various agricultural activities.

The banks have their own guidelines to check the utilization of the loans disbursed by them. The loans disbursed by all banks are being reviewed periodically at various fora viz. District Consultative Committee Meetings (DCC) at the district level and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at the State level.

Achievements made under the Ganga Action Plan

*205. DR. MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent so far on the Ganga Action Plan and the results achieved so far;

(b) whether the results achieved so far are satisfactory;

(c) if so, the details thereof;