

[31st July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Hike in LPG Prices

† 885. PROF. R.-B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of LPG have been hiked recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government propose to check sudden hike in the prices of LPG; and
- (d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir. The ex-storage point price of LPG (domestic) was last revised w.e.f. midnight 22nd/23rd March, 2000.

(b) to (d) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG (domestic) will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. As per the decision, the subsidy is to be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards.

Benefits to Oil companies under Administered Pricing Mechanism

886. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: (a) whether his Ministry and Oil Corporation Committee had allowed undue benefits of Rs. 6321 crores to Oil Companies under administered pricing mechanism during 1993-98;

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General has also pointed out these lapses in its latest report;
- (d) if so, whether Government have fixed any responsibility against those officials who were involved in such lapses;
- (e) if so the details of those officials; and
- (f) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (f) Under the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM), Oil Companies are allowed compensation for

† Original notice of the *Question* was received in Hindi.