

- (b) if so, the action taken against the Board of Directors of the Bank; and
- (c) whether the Ministry would institute a CBI inquiry into these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Statutory inspection of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with reference to the financial position as on March 31, 2010 revealed that the bank's financial position has deteriorated further and irregularities reported earlier were persisting in its functioning. NABARD recommended for the supersession of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Reverse Bank of India vide its letter dated 4.5.2011 requested the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra State to make an order for the supersession of the Board of Directors of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and for appointment of an Administrator therefor.

Registrar Cooperative Societies Govt. of Maharashtra vide its order dated 7.5.2011 superseded the Board of Directors of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and appointed Board of Administrators to manage the affairs of the Bank.

(c) The bank is already under direction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Decision on any further investigation in such case is to be taken by the RBI considering all facts and circumstances.

Deficiency in indigenous natural gas production

445. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the existing external sources for the country to acquire natural gas;
 - (b) whether India is planning to import natural gas from Israel;
 - (c) if so, the details thereof;
 - (d) the present status of the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline;
 - (e) whether any improvements have been made in this regard;
 - (f) whether the country is facing deficiency in terms of natural gas production;
- and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) To acquire natural gas from external sources, India imports LNG through various entities viz. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd. (HLPL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) and GAIL (India) Ltd. India imports Liquefied

Natural Gas (LNG) on long term contract as well as spot purchase basis. Currently 7.5 MMTPA of LNG is imported on long term contract basis by PLL from RasGas, Qatar. PLL has also tied up import of 1.4 MMTPA of LNG imports from Gorgon, Australia for its Kochi LNG terminal. GAIL has signed an agreement for importing 3.5 MMTPA of LNG from the Sabine Pass Terminal in USA. Beside long term contracts, GAIL and PLL have entered short term/medium term contracts of around 1.6 MMTPA for the next 3 years. As regards procurement of LNG on spot purchase basis, India's gas companies in the recent years have sourced LNG from countries such as Oman, Trinidad & Tobago, Malaysia, Nigeria, Australia, Egypt, U.A.E, Russian Federation, Equatorial Guinea, U.S.A, Algeria, Yemen and Norway.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The present state of the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India Gas pipeline is that several rounds of discussions have taken place between India, Pakistan and Iran. However, several critical issues such as the project structure, delivery point of Iranian gas, guarantees related to the safety of the pipeline and security of supply besides contractual issues, including the pricing of gas, are yet to be resolved.

(f) and (g) The domestic availability of natural gas during June, 2011 was around 120 MMSCMD while imported RLNG comprised 46 MMSCMD totalling 166 MMSCMD of domestic consumption.

The availability of domestic natural gas during 2012-13 to 2014-15 is projected to be as follows :

	(MMSCMD)		
Source	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Pre NELP/ CBM	13	17	24
KG-D6	28	24	20
ONGC	55	55	58
OIL	8	9	10
TOTAL AVAILABILITY FROM DOMESTIC SOURCE	104	105	112

As against this, the projected cumulative additional demand over and above the current consumption of 166 MMSCMD, during the 2012-13 to 2014-15, is as follows :

(MMSCMD)

Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Cumulative Additional Demand			
TOTAL	254.2	284.27	356.16

As the domestic gas availability is projected to decline in the next two to three years the additional demand will have to be primarily met through imported LNG.

IT Demand letters to tax payers

*446 SHRI SALIM ANSARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Income-tax Department has issued demand letters to several lakh honest income-tax payers for the year from 2001-02 onwards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for sending such demand letters after a lapse of several years; and
- (c) the details of action Government proposes to take against officers who are harassing honest tax payers.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Sir, no such demand letters have been sent to any Income Taxpayer. In fact, the Centralized Processing Centre (CPC), Bengaluru, which is processing all electronic returns filed across the country, has only issued communication letters to the taxpayers intimating the outstanding tax dues in cases where the tax arrears were uploaded on the CPC portal by the jurisdictional Assessing Officers. It was clearly stated that this communication was not a demand notice and it did not in any manner supercede the details of demand as per the records of the Assessing Officer and hence is subject to modification at any juncture.

This was done in the process of the departmental records from manual maintenance to digitized mode. The Income Tax Department has created a central repository of all tax demands for better demand management and to achieve this, all officers were asked to collate demand lying at multiple places including manual registers and upload them on to the CPC portal. Considering that the entire exercise involved massive data handling, during a meeting with Bangalore Chartered Accountant's Association, it was suggested that taxpayers should be informed about the uploaded demands, so as to enable them to take necessary action if the uploaded demands were incorrect. This measure was aimed at providing greater transparency and is a taxpayer friendly exercise which was undertaken to comply with the statutory provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 (which stipulated prior intimation before adjustment of any refund).