

**High usage of diesel**

†1823. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to huge difference between diesel and petrol prices, the use of diesel in cars has increased;

(b) if so, the percentage of diesel out of total consumption being used in the cars each month in the country;

(c) whether Government is formulating any policy for making available subsidy-free diesel for cars; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government has made the price of Petrol market-determined with effect from 26.06.2010. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on the pricing of Petrol in line with the international oil prices and market conditions. However, the Government continues to modulate the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of Diesel in order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions. There has been no revision in the price of Diesel since 25.06.2011. At present there is a difference of Rs. 27.14 in the price of Petrol and Diesel at Delhi. This difference is encouraging consumer's preference for Diesel cars, which is reflected in declining growth in Petrol consumption and rising growth in Diesel consumption.

To assess sector-wise consumption of Diesel, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) in association with the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has commissioned an All India Study on Sectoral Demand of Diesel and Petrol. As per the initial results available for the first round of field survey of the study (based on 2011-12 Diesel consumption), Diesel consumption share in passenger vehicles (includes cars and SUVs etc.) is estimated as follows:

Passenger Vehicles (Cars, SUVs, etc.)	15.88%
---------------------------------------	--------

In view of the uniform pricing of Diesel (HSD) except for local levies, subsidy on Diesel is available to all sectors of consumption.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG) in its Budget Proposal to the Ministry of Finance had proposed to levy additional excise duty on Diesel cars. Subsequently, MoP and NG has also written to the Ministry of Finance for levying additional excise duty on Diesel cars.

**OVL's stake in Kazakhstan's oil block**

1824. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) had signed a deal in Astana to take a 25 per cent stake in Kazakhstan's Satpayer exploration block;

(b) if so, whether such 25 per cent exploration-production would be refined in Kazakhstan or will it be done in India;

(c) whether the country's oil refineries have capabilities to refine the crude of the specification which are likely to be India's share of production; and

(d) the quantity of crude or petroleum products imported till 31 March, 2012 from countries with which OVL had agreements incorporating clauses for joint exploration or production sharing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. ONGC Videsh Ltd.(OVL) has acquired 25% participating interest on 12.10.2011 for Satpayev block, Kazakhstan. This block is under exploration and so far the stage of drilling of wells has not been reached. Testing of crude oil for Specification for determination of refining plan will come at a later stage as and when there is a discovery of crude oil as a result of exploration.

(d) Details of country wise crude imported during the year 2011-2012 where OVL has participating interest in exploration are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the country	2011-12 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
1.	Iran	18.11
2.	Iraq	24.11
3.	Syria	0.00
4.	Egypt	2.83