

Diesel, the Government, on 17th January 2013, authorized the OMCs to (a) increase the retail selling price of Diesel in the range of 40 paise to 50 paise per litre per month (excluding VAT as applicable in different State/Union Territories) until further orders; and (b) sell Diesel to all consumers taking bulk supplies directly from the installations of the OMCs at the non-subsidized market determined price.

(c) and (d) The Government has received representations from various State Governments including Government of Gujarat highlighting the difficulties being faced by the State Transport Undertakings (STUs) on purchase of Diesel at non-subsidized market determined price. It is within the domain of the State Governments to provide appropriate relief to the STUs including through rationalization of State taxes.

Execution of Tapi pipeline project

1999. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India have agreed to supply gas from Turkmenistan to India and decided to set up a company in this regard; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAXMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Turkmenistan will supply gas to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India through a pipeline called TAPI Pipeline. The Pipeline consortium company TAPI Limited is to be jointly formed by these participating countries. The Government of India has accorded its approval for formation of TAPI Limited with GAIL as the nominated entity from the Indian side. An International Oil Company (IOC) having experience in finance, design and construction of similar project would be inducted as a Consortium Leader. The process of identification and selection of the Consortium Leader is in progress. TAPI Limited will own, construct and operate this Pipeline from Turkmenistan-Afghanistan border to Pakistan-India border.

Infrastructure status for hydrocarbon exploration and production sector

2000. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to give infrastructure status to Hydrocarbon exploration and Production sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the status will enable India's upstream oil companies to get easier access to finance and better loan term for projects and also eligible to issue tax free bonds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAXMI): (a) and (b) The Government has so far not granted Infrastructure status to 'Hydrocarbon Exploration and Production'.

(c) and (d) The Sectors which are accorded 'Infrastructure' status by the Government become eligible to benefits like:

(i) Infrastructure lending at easier terms with enhanced limits;

(ii) Access to larger amounts of funds as External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs);

(iii) Access longer tenor funds from insurance companies and pension funds, etc'.

Rise in prices of natural gas

2001. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry's proposal to raise natural gas prices by 60 per cent is expected to increase the power generation costs of gas-based power plants by Rs. 463.6 billion per annum;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposed revision suggested by the Rangarajan Committee would increase the gas price to 6.77 dollar per mmbtu from the current price of 4.2 dollar per mmbtu;

(d) if so, the details thereof;