

Security concern over IPI pipeline

2611. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India has joined Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project;
- (b) if so, what is the time schedule and estimated expenditure of this project;
- (c) how much India will be benefited when this project is completed;
- (d) whether there is any threat perception since major part of the project is passing through Pakistan; and
- (e) whether the Government of Pakistan has guaranteed the security from sabotage of the pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, no progress has been made in case of IPI pipeline since 2008, as several critical issues like the project structure, delivery period of gas, safety and security, pricing etc. could not be addressed. As the project has not moved forward since 2008, it is not possible to indicate any time schedule for the project. As per past estimates, investments required for the pipeline were about 7 billion USD. It was earlier envisaged that out of the total capacity of the pipeline to transport 60 MMSCMD of gas, India could get about 30 MMSCMD.

(d) and (e) As envisaged earlier, the Pakistan leg of the project was to be executed by a consortium of technically and financially competent international companies. Further, it was also contemplated to establish a trilateral mechanism for ensuring the secured delivery of gas at Pakistan-India border.

Sources of procuring cheaper petroleum products

†2612. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that prices of petrol and diesel in our neighbouring countries are far lesser than those in our country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the constraints before India in procuring diesel and petrol from the countries from whom our neighbouring countries are procuring the same;

(c) whether Government will take steps to remove the constraints being faced in the procurement of oil;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The prices of Petrol and Diesel (in retail) in Rs. per litre, as of 1st February, 2014 for neighbouring countries namely Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and for India (Delhi) are given below:

	(Indian Rs./Litre)				
	India (Delhi)	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Sri Lanka	Nepal
Petrol	72.43	65.54	77.43	77.69	80.77
Diesel (in retail)	54.91	69.63	54.58	58.34	63.98

Source: Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL).

From the above table, it may be seen that Petrol is cheaper only in Pakistan as compared to India (Delhi). The price of Diesel (in retail) in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal is more than India (Delhi) and the price of Diesel (in retail) in Bangladesh is almost at par with price of Diesel in India (Delhi).

Complaints against OMCs

†2613. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL gas be pleased to state:

(a) the Oil Marketing Company (OMC)-wise number of cases of irregularities/malpractices that came to light during the investigation of complaints received with regard to the functioning of oil marketing companies during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) the number of cases of irregularities/malpractices proved to be true during this period along with the oil marketing company-wise and case-wise and the number of people punished; and

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