

**Deregulating Pricing of diesel, LPG and kerosene**

\*44 SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to deregulate the pricing of diesel, LPG and kerosene; and

(b) if so, the details of subsidy given at present on diesel, LPG and kerosene and the method proposed to be adopted to cut down the subsidy to zero level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal before the Government, at present. Moreover, in order to protect the consumer from the inflationary impact of rising international oil prices, the Government continues to modulate the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of Diesel (in retail), PDS kerosene and subsidized domestic LPG, resulting in incidence of under-recovery to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). In order to reduce under-recovery on sale of diesel and in pursuance of the decision taken by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, the Government on 17.01.2013 has 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 States/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. Also effective 14th September, 2012, the Government decided to cap the supply of Subsidized Domestic LPG cylinders for each domestic LPG consumer to 6 cylinders (of 14.2 Kg) per annum, which was subsequently increased to 9 and to 12 cylinders on 17th January, 2013 and 30th January, 2014 respectively.

Based on the Refinery Gate Price (RGPL) effective 1st July 2014, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are currently forced to incur an under-recovery of ₹ 3.40/litre on Diesel (for retail consumers), ₹ 33.07/litre on PDS Kerosene and ₹ 449.17/cylinder (14.2 Kg) on Subsidized Domestic LPG. In addition, the Government is providing a subsidy of ₹ 22.58 per cylinder (14.2 kg) on Domestic LPG and ₹ 0.82 per litre on PDS Kerosene.

**Honouring people jailed during emergency period**

\*45. SHRI RAMNATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to honour the people including those from Bihar who were jailed during emergency by giving them status of 'freedom fighter', if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether there have been several representations/demands to Government in this regard;