

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Currently, there is no impact on import of crude oil from Iraq due to the prevailing political crisis in that country. However, the political situation in Iraq led to an increase in crude price from \$106.43 per barrel to \$109.75 per barrel in the period between 5th June, 2014 to 30th June, 2014, resulting an increase in Petrol price by 2.09/litre on 01.07.2014.

As the price of Petrol has been made market determined effective 26th June 2010, 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.

Deferring revision of natural gas price

870. SHRI R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has deferred its decision to fix price for natural gas till September, 2014; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government considered the gas price issue in the CCEA meeting held on 25th June, 2014 and has decided that the whole issue of domestic natural gas pricing needs comprehensive re-examination and that the Domestic Natural Gas Pricing Guidelines, 2014 be kept in abeyance upto 30.09.2014.

Inquiry into blast in GAIL pipeline

871. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recent disaster at the GAIL pipeline in Nagaram Village in Andhra Pradesh, causing 15 deaths by explosion, has prompted Government to revisit the pending proposal for a statutory safety regulator for the Hydrocarbons sector;

(b) whether even with the hindsight provided by a ghastly fire at the IOC storage installation near Jaipur few years back, causing huge losses, Government could not put in place a safety mechanism to prevent the GAIL Nagaram disaster; and

(c) whether Government has ordered a departmental enquiry and if so, whether any time-frame has been set for submission of its findings ?