

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence have raised certain objections forcing Cairn India to declare force *majeure* of some of the blocks; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for going ahead to grant permission to Cairn India in KG Blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The block KG-OSN-2009/3 was awarded to Cairn India Ltd. and Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the block was signed on 30.06.2010 after taking due clearances from various Ministries / Departments. However, later on Ministry of Defence (MoD) withdrew clearance due to security concerns raised by Indian Air Force. Subsequently, MoD reviewed the matter and gave conditional clearance allowing exploration and production activities over part of the block which was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI).

Rate of petrol and diesel in neighbouring countries *vis-a-vis* India

†1553. SHRI MAHENDRASINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the rate at which petrol and diesel is being provided to the consumers at present in the neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh;
- (b) whether Government is making available petrol and diesel to the consumers in the country at a rate higher than that in the neighbouring countries;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether Government will seek advice from the neighbouring countries to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) The prices of Petrol and Diesel have been made market determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then prices of Petrol and Diesel are being decided by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as per market conditions. The current prices of Petrol and Diesel at Delhi (as per IOCL) and in the neighbouring countries are given below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

	Indian ₹/litre	
Country	Petrol	Diesel
India (at Delhi, as per IOCL)	60.49	49.71
Pakistan	41.54	49.66
Bangladesh	76.41	54.01
Sri Lanka	54.57	44.08
Nepal	68.13	54.01

Source: Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (Prices for neighbouring countries as on 4.2.2015).

As can be seen from the above table, the price of Petrol in India is lower than that of Bangladesh and Nepal. Similarly, the price of Diesel in India is lower/ comparable to all other countries, except Sri Lanka.

Malpractices in releasing new LPG connections by HPCL and BG

1554. SHRI GULAM RASOOL BALYAWI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the distributors of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Gas are committing irregularities and malpractices in releasing new LPG connections to the consumers;

(b) whether Government is aware that the distributors manipulate the new connections in such a way that either letters do not reach the prospective consumers or they are harassed and warded off on one pretext or the other;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported 21 and 2 established cases of irregularities/ malpractices by their LPG distributors in releasing new LPG connections (NC) between April 2014 to January, 2015.

In all the established cases, action is taken against the erring LPG distributors according to provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).