

[6 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As on 31st March, 2004, the total external debt stock of India stood at US dollar 112,593 million or Rs. 489,168 crore.

(b) Prudent external debt management policies pursued by the Government, particularly since 1991, have helped in maintaining a comfortable external debt position. These policies include emphasis on raising funds on concessional terms and from less expensive sources with longer maturities, monitoring of short-term debt, prepaying high cost loans and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

Tax on petroleum products

48. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that money is collected through tax on petroleum products in the country;

(b) if so, the percentage of tax and cess collected over basic price on petrol, diesel, gas and kerosene; and

(c) the States where maximum and minimum rates on these products are being realized in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Petrol, diesel, Liquefied Petroleum Gases (LPG) and kerosene attract different rates of excise duties. Present rates of Central Excise duty are as under:

Product	CENVAT	SED*	Rates of duty AED" (Rs. per litre)	SAED*** (Rs. per litre)
Petrol	16%	10%	1.50	6.00
Diesel	11%	-	1.50	-
LPG	8%	-	-	-
Kerosene	16%	-	-	-

* Special Excise Duty (SED)

** Additional Duty of Excise (AED)

*Special Additional Duty of Excise (SAED)

(c) Rates of other taxes and levies on these products by the State Governments vary from State to State, and details of the same are maintained by the respective States.

Gas in Krishna Godavari Basin

49. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY:
SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ONGC has struck gas in the Krishna Godavari basin;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when production will start?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the Krishna Godavari onland basin, the commercial gas find was made by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in Razole structure in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh in 1983. The first gas find in offshore was made at GS-8 prospect in 1987. ONGC has established 97.68 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 40.14 BCM of initial inplace volume of gas in onland and offshore Krishna-Godavari Basin respectively in its operational areas. In addition, Ravva and Joint Venture fields in Krishna Godavari offshore where ONGC has a 40% share, has 11.89 BCM of in-place volume of gas.

(c) In the Krishna Godavari onland basin, commercial production of gas started from Razole field in October 1988. In offshore, gas production started from GS-15 and GS-23 fields in 2001.

As on 1.5.2004, 24 finds including two offshore, were producing 4.9 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters per day (MMSCMD) of gas in the Krishna Godavari Basin. In addition, the natural gas production from the Ravva joint venture field is around 2.61 MMSCMD.

Export of diesel to Pakistan

50. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to export diesel to Pakistan for betterment of Indo-pak ties;