

The burden of high international oil prices was also shared by OMCs by not passing the full impact of international oil prices in the increase of the domestic consumer prices of aforesaid products effective 16.6.2004. Further, OMCs did not increase the selling prices of PDS kerosene.

### **Prices of petroleum products**

**52. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of petroleum products have been increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have carried out or proposed to carry out any study to reduce the production cost to recover a percentage of subsidy inherent in the selling of petroleum products;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, what steps are being taken to bring down the prices of petroleum products?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)** (a) and (b) Taking into consideration the prevalent high international oil prices, the consumer prices of petrol, diesel and domestic LPG were increased effective 16.6.04.

(c) to (e) In a decontrolled scenario, the Oil companies have the incentive to cut their costs to remain competitive.

Effective 16.6.04, the Government reduced the excise duty rates on petrol, diesel and LPG to contain the impact of high international prices on domestic consumer prices of these products. The burden of high international oil prices was also shared by OMCs by not passing the full impact of international oil prices in the increase of the domestic consumer prices of aforesaid products effective 16.6.2004. Further, OMCs did not increase the selling price of PDS kerosene.

### **Pipeline between India and Nepal**

**53. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC is laying a pipeline from India to Nepal to move petroleum products;