

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: What is your recommendation?
....(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Profit by Oil companies

*307. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of profit earned by public sector oil companies during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that oil companies, under the garb of increased crude oil prices at international level, time and again propose increase in prices of petroleum products; and

(c) what were the selling prices per litre of diesel and petrol as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004 in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The total amount of profit after tax of the public sector companies under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas during the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 was as follows:

| | (Rs. in crore) | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| PSUs | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
| ONGC+OIL | 6723.12 | 11446.05 | 9614.13 |
| IOC+HPC+BPC+IBP | 4720.26 | 8990.03 | 10817.99 |
| Standalone Refineries | 56.46 | 700.19 | 1933.25 |
| Others | 1231.50 | 1769.46 | 2393.20 |
| Total | 12731.34 | 22905.73 | 24758.57 |

(b) Increases in international oil market prices would be reflected in the domestic consumer prices of petroleum products. However, steps have been taken to contain the impact of such increases in the domestic consumer prices of four major products, viz., PDS Kerosene, Domestic

LPG, Diesel and Petrol. PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are subsidized products. In addition to the Government subsidy, oil PSUs have been sharing the burden of subsidizing these products. In consequence, despite the steep increase in international prices since the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector effective 1.4.2002, the selling prices of these products have not been increased except for an increase of Rs. 20/cylinder in the retail selling price of Domestic LPG effective 16.6.2004. As regards Diesel and Petrol, a price band mechanism has been put in operation effective 1.8.2004, as per which oil companies can effect price revisions only within a prescribed price band.

(c) The details of retail selling prices in Delhi of Diesel and Petrol as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004 are given in the statement (See below) Retail selling prices in different parts of the country vary from place to place owing to freight, State taxes, and local levies.

Statement

Retail Selling prices of Diesel and Petrol in Delhi as on 1st April from 1999 to 2004

| | (Rs./Litre) | |
|----------|-------------|--------|
| Date | Diesel | Petrol |
| 1.4.1999 | 10.03 | 24.01 |
| 1.4.2000 | 14.04 | 25.94 |
| 1.4.2001 | 17.06 | 28.75 |
| 1.4.2002 | 16.59 | 26.54 |
| 1.4.2003 | 22.12 | 33.49 |
| 1.4.2004 | 21.74 | 33.71 |

Coal Gassification Project of GAIL

*308. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has been examining coal gassification option for commercial projects in eastern parts of the country;