

Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of Petrol and Diesel in line with international product prices and other market conditions and no cost is borne by the Government.

(b) and (c) The price details including and excluding taxes for petrol and diesel in metro cities is given in the Statement (*See below*).

Statement

Petrol price as on 16.07.2017

(₹/litre)

Metro cities	RSP (including taxes)	Excise Duty	VAT
Delhi	64.15	21.48	13.64
Mumbai	73.49	21.48	23.35
Chennai	66.62	21.48	16.25
Kolkata	67.58	21.48	14.12

Diesel price as on 16.07.2017

(₹/litre)

Metro cities	RSP (including taxes)	Excise Duty	VAT
Delhi	54.97	17.33	8.14
Mumbai	58.52	17.33	12.62
Chennai	57.97	17.33	11.26
Kolkata	57.72	17.33	8.75

Introduction of new oil and gas block licensing policy

2046. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has introduced a new oil and gas block licensing policy that is expected to open up 2.8 million square kilometres of sedimentary basins to exploration and production activities;

(b) whether the lack of seismic sedimentary basin data had been hampering the oil and gas exploration and production sector;

(c) whether 52 per cent of India's sedimentary basins had not been appraised as yet;

(d) whether the National Data Repository was expected to improve this situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARAMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government of India has launched Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) under new oil and gas policy called Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) that is expected to open up 2.8 million square kilometres of sedimentary basins to exploration and production activities.

(b) and (c) India has about 3.14 million square kilometres of sedimentary area for oil and gas exploration. Out of which 1.5072 million square kilometre (*i.e.* 48%) area has been appraised. Government has started the National Seismic Programme (NSP) which aims to undertake an appraisal of sedimentary basins across India, especially where no/scanty data is available in order to have a better understanding of the hydrocarbon prospectivity. To supplement the data acquisition efforts, geo-scientific data is also acquired through Non Exclusive Multi-Client Surveys. Further, under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), which is part of Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, contractor has the access to data round the year for assessment enabling them to propose area of their interest for bidding thereby bringing maximum area under exploration.

(d) and (e) Exploration and Production (E&P) operations in India have generated voluminous data in terms of geo-scientific surveys, exploratory and development drilling and well data along with other types of data. National Data Repository (NDR) has been setup at Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to make the entire E&P data available for commercial exploitation, research & development and academic purpose. With the availability of data on National Data Repository (NDR), the contractor has access to data round the year for assessment enabling them to propose area of their interest for bidding.

Cashless transaction at petrol pumps

2047. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cashless transactions at petrol pumps have nearly trebled from ₹ 150 crore per day to ₹ 400 crore per day;

(b) whether this was achieved through a three pronged strategy adopted to promote cashless transactions after demonetisation;

(c) whether altogether 86 per cent of the petrol pumps in the country now have infrastructure for digital payments;