

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell's information, 41.17 lakh households are using Piped Natural Gas (PNG) as on 1.02.2018.

(b) to (d) As on 23.03.2018, there are 22.36 crore Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) consumers in the country and balance families use other fuels for cooking. In order to provide clean cooking fuel to every poor households especially in rural areas, the Government had launched "Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)" on 1.05.2016 to provide deposit-free LPG connections to five crore women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) which has now been enhanced to eight crore. Identification of prospective beneficiaries under PMUY has been expanded by including other categories in addition to Socio Economic Caste Census (SECC) list. As on 23.03.2018, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released more than 3.51 crore LPG connections under the scheme.

Decontrol of petroleum products

4265. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

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

(a) whether price of petrol has once again reached above ₹ 80/- per litre in March, 2018;

(b) if so, whether decontrol of petroleum products is a false notion;

(c) whether decontrol of Government over petroleum products is practiced only when price in international market goes up and Government controls the price of petroleum products when its price comes down in international market;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for organised plunder by a welfare State from poor citizens of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Prices of Petrol and Diesel have been made market-determined effective 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. 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.

As per information furnished by IOCL, retail selling prices of petrol in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai on 31st March, 2018 were ₹ 73.55/litre, ₹ 81.41/litre, ₹ 76.29/litre and ₹ 76.26/litre respectively.

(c) to (e) Public Sector OMCs have implemented daily revision of retail selling price of petrol and diesel in the entire country effective 16th June, 2017.

Daily pricing has been introduced to bring more transparency and efficiency in pricing to benefit the consumers.

With an aim to reduce the prices of petrol and diesel and give relief to the consumers, the Central Government reduced the Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹ 2 per litre effective from 4th October, 2017. The Central Government also requested all the State Governments to reduce VAT imposed by them on petrol and diesel so as to give more relief to the consumers. Four State Governments and one Union Territory have reduced the VAT on petrol and diesel.

The Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and Retail Selling Price (RSP) of PDS kerosene.

Renegotiation of long-term LNG purchase deal by GAIL

4266. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL Indian and Russian firm Gazprom have renegotiated their long-term LNG sale and purchase agreement that was originally signed in 2012;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the two parties have agreed to an adjustment to the price and volume of LNG supply thus enabling GAIL to develop incremental gas markets to offtake these volumes thereby mitigating volume risk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. GAIL has renegotiated the long-term Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) sale and purchase agreement with Gazprom. An LNG SPA (Liquefied Natural Gas Sale and Purchase Agreement) for 2.5 MMTPA volume was signed on 29.08.2012 by GAIL (India) Limited with Gazprom Marketing and Trading Singapore Pte. Ltd. (GMTS), Singapore (an affiliate of Gazprom) for approx. 20 years term with LNG supplies commence from 2018.

Due to the change in market conditions, GAIL took up with GMTS for review of LNG price under the SPA. After detailed discussions, both parties agreed on an understanding for amendment to the LNG SPA through a Deed of Amendment primarily on volume ramp up and reduction in price, which has been signed on 16.01.2018 with