

capital grant under Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga to promote gas based economy, improvement in the supply of ethanol, direct sale of bio-diesel to all consumers for blending with High Speed Diesel, and signing of MoUs for setting up of bio refinery (2G ethanol) plants at five locations.

**Establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh**

592. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ONGC has entered into an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) for establishment of Barite Beneficiation Plant in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal was cleared by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons for pendency and by when establishment of this plant will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited and Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) entered into an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a barite beneficiation plant in Andhra Pradesh to beneficiate low grade barites to meet the requirement of Barites of ONGC. The Government has conveyed its concurrence for the project to ONGC. As per the pre-feasibility report, the project is scheduled to be completed in 15 months.

**Cost incurred on production of petrol/diesel**

†593. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that the prices of diesel-petrol would be fixed by the companies on day-to-day basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of diesel and petrol are on incessant rise ever since the decision has been taken whereas the prices of crude oil is much less in the international market;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the total cost incurred on the petrol-diesel production and on the delivery thereof to the market?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The prices of petrol and diesel have been made market determined by the Government effective from 26th June, 2010 and 19th October, 2014 respectively and since then their prices are being decided by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, in line with the changes in the international market prices.

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

Daily price revisions of petrol and diesel make the retail prices more reflective of the current market conditions, minimizing the volatility in the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of petrol and diesel. Further, it leads to increased transparency in the system and enables smoother flow of products from refinery/depots to Retail Outlets.

The price of Indian basket of crude oil on 16th June, 2017 and 29th January, 2018 and corresponding Retail Selling Price is given as under:—

	16.06.2017	29.01.2018
Indian Basket of Crude Oil	\$45.94/bbl	\$67.86/bbl
RSP Petrol	₹ 65.48/litre	₹ 72.84/litre
RSP Diesel	₹ 54.49/litre	₹ 63.93/litre

(d): Refining of crude oil is a process industry, where crude oil constitutes around 90% of the total cost. Crude oil is processed through several processing units. Each of these units produces intermediate products streams, which require further reprocessing and blending. It is difficult to apportion the total cost amongst individual refined products; hence product-wise costs are not identified separately.

#### **Acquisition of GAIL india Limited**

594. SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited are both keen to acquire gas utility GAIL India Limited to become fully integrated energy companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;