

Uniform rate of petroleum products across the country

2375. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States and Union Territories have urged the Union Government to provide petrol, diesel and other petroleum products at uniform rates across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government has increased/ decreased prices of petroleum, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Uniform rate of tax across States can be achieved through GST. No such request or recommendation has been received from any State/UT. Clause 12A of Article 366 of the Constitution of India defines 'Goods and Services Tax' (GST) as "any tax on supply of goods or services or both except taxes on the supply of alcoholic liquor for human consumption". Further, Article 279A (5) provides that Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which Goods and Services Tax shall be levied on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. Thus, while petroleum products are included under Goods and Services Tax, the date on which GST shall be levied on such products shall be as per the decision of the Goods and Services Tax Council.

Further, prices of petrol and diesel are different in various States due to imposition of VAT rates and inland freight. VAT is imposed by the respective State Governments and varies from State to State.

(c) Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined by the Government with effect from 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. The OMCs have not only increased but also decreased the prices accordingly. The Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and RSP of PDS Kerosene. The details of revision in prices of petroleum products is available at Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) website *i.e.* www.ppac.org.in.