

(c) PNGRB identifies the GAs for the development of CGD network depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability and techno-commercial viability.

#### **Impact of US sanctions on oil imports from Iran**

284. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) quantum of crude oil imported from Iran during last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon as compared to other Middle-Eastern countries;

(b) whether Government has asked refiners to prepare for a drastic reduction or zero imports of oil from Iran on the call by the US for curtailing trade ties/stop crude oil import from Iran and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has asked refiners to find out alternative to oil from Iran and ensure energy security and also initiated negotiation with other countries for import of crude oil and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The details of quantum of crude oil (in MMT) imported from Iran and other Middle-East countries during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is as below:

Country	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (MMT)
Iran	12.7	27.2	22.6
Total from Middle East countries	121.2	137.1	141.7

(b) Indian refineries import crude oil from diverse sources, including from Iran, depending on technical and commercial considerations. At a press conference on 5th November 2018, US Secretary of State announced exempting eight countries, including India, from US sanctions for importing crude oil from Iran.

(c) Indian Public Sector Refineries are diversifying their crude sources to strengthen India's energy security.

#### **Differences in price of petrol/diesel sold to other countries**

285. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government/Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are selling petrol and diesel at the rate less than half of the retail price in India to various countries, as per the RTI information;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the rate thereof for the last three years and current year so far, country-wise; and

(c) the reasons for huge difference between the price of petrol and diesel sold to other countries by OMCs and sold to common citizens of the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Oil Marketing Companies export petrol and diesel out of surplus arising after meeting the domestic demands. The prices of petroleum products in our country are benchmarked to international product prices. Generally, the price of petroleum products in the country are higher/lower than other countries due to a variety of factors, including prevailing tax regime and subsidy compensations by the respective Governments.

#### **Entrusting ONGC oilfields to private sector**

†286. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the process of entrusting some oilfields of ONGC to private sector has been started by Government;

(b) if so, the names of those oilfields and the circumstances due to which those are being entrusted to the private sector;

(c) the details of losses and profits of those ONGC oilfields which are proposed to be entrusted to private sector during the last three years; and

(d) the effects of entrusting ONGC oilfields to private sector and whether this agreement will not dampen its encouraging performance?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Many of the discovered oil and gas fields of the ONGC and OIL could not be monetized for years. With a view to increase domestic production of oil and gas, Government in September, 2015 approved the Discovered Small Field Policy (DSF) for monetization of 69 small discoveries/fields of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production and 43 discoveries were awarded under DSF Bid Round I. The

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.