

Governments arbitrarily imposed various types of taxes on the price of petrol and diesel thereby raising their percentage ceiling for e.g. in Maharashtra upto 39.69 per cent;

(b) if so, whether Central Government would make any monitoring mechanism towards it so that price of petrol and diesel remain uniform in each State; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The State Governments levy various types of taxes on petrol and diesel including Sales Tax/VAT/cess etc. The actual rate of tax on petrol and diesel in Maharashtra as on 1st December, 2018 is given below:

State	Petrol	Diesel
Maharashtra - Mumbai, Thane & Navi Mumbai	26% VAT+ ₹7.12/Litre additional tax	24% VAT
Maharashtra (Rest of State)	25% VAT+ ₹7.12/Litre additional tax	21% VAT

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.

Uniform rate of tax across States can be achieved through GST. 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.

Augmenting crude oil storage capacity

292. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete and comprehensive step to augment the storage capacity of crude oil, which is largely imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is facing any environmental concern due to storage of crude oil in huge quantity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has given 'in principle' approval for creation of two additional Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at two locations namely (i) Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT) and (ii) Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT). As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, 6.5 MMT SPR is estimated to provide about 11.5 days of India's crude oil requirement. Government, under Phase I of SPR programme, has already built up SPR facilities of total 5.33 MMT at three locations namely (i) Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), (ii) Mangaluru (1.5 MMT) and (iii) Padur (2.5 MMT). As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, 5.33 MMT SPR is estimated to provide about 9.5 days of India's crude oil requirement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of answer at (c) above.

Leasing out medium and small oil-fields in the country

293. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move to lease out medium and small oilfields in the country to private players;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this step will be beneficial to the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) With a view to increase domestic production of oil and gas, Government in September, 2015 in consultation with ONGC and OIL, approved the Discovered Small Field Policy for monetization of 69 discovered small fields/discoveries of ONGC and OIL, which had not been put into production. Under the Policy, Government has awarded 30 contract areas for development through International Competitive