

- Payment of equal wages to male and female workers for same type of work.
- Payment of journey allowance.
- Payment of displacement allowance.
- Providing suitable residential accommodation.
- Providing prescribed medical facilities.
- Providing protective clothing.

Taxes levied on petroleum products

447. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:

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

(a) whether Government is considering to bring petroleum products under the ambit of GST;

(b) the reasons for keeping petroleum products out of the ambit of GST;

(c) whether it is a fact that the various taxes being levied on the petroleum products by the Central and State Governments are equal to the basic price of these projects; and

(d) the basic price of the petroleum products along with the State-wise prices of these products after all the taxes being levied by States and Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Article 279A (5) of the Constitution provides that Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which goods and services tax shall be levied on petroleum products. Thus while, petroleum products are constitutionally included under GST, the date and rate of GST which shall be levied on such goods, shall be as per the decision of the GST Council, which has representations of Ministers-in-charge of Finance or Taxation or any other Minister nominated by each of the States and Union Territories with legislature.

(c) and (d) 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 Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for Subsidized Domestic LPG and retail selling price of PDS Kerosene.

The prices of petroleum products are linked to the international product prices, exchange rate, tax structure, inland freight and other cost elements. The details of applicable taxes on major petroleum products i.e. petrol, diesel, domestic LPG and PDS kerosene are given as under:-

- (i) Customs duty: Central Government is levying Customs duty at the rate of 2.5% on petrol and diesel. The Customs duty on Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene is nil.
- (ii) Excise duty: The Central Excise duty rates on petrol and diesel are ₹19.98 and ₹15.83 per litre respectively. There is no excise duty on PDS kerosene and domestic LPG and these products are under the ambit of GST.
- (iii) Sales Tax/VAT: Rates of VAT on petrol and diesel vary from State to State.
- (iv) GST: Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene are under the ambit of GST with applicable rate of 5%.

Exploration of Shale gas reserves

448. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has permitted National Oil companies to explore and exploit shale gas and oil in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has also undertaken any shale gas exploration in foreign countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Shale gas and oil exploration policy guidelines were approved on 14th October, 2013 by the Government of India for the exploration and exploitation of Shale Gas and Oil by National Oil Companies under nomination regime. Oil and