

Price of petrol and diesel

2839. DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:

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

- (a) the hike in prices of petrol and diesel announced by the Central Government recently;
- (b) how much out of this increased price, the Central Government have earned by way of increased Central taxes; and
- (c) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to give up their share of increased taxes and if so, what has prevented them from following the same course of action themselves?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) 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 prices of petrol and diesel as on 10th January, 2020 and 16th March, 2020 at Delhi are given below:—

(`/litre)		
Dated	Petrol	Diesel
10.01.2020	75.96	69.05
16.03.2020	69.59	62.29
Decrease	6.37	6.76

Currently, the Central Government levies Excise duty on petrol and diesel, whereas State Governments levy VAT/Sales Tax. Excise duty is levied on specific basis (fixed amount per litre) and VAT/Sales tax (by most of the states) is levied on an *ad-valorem* basis. Special Additional Excise Duty/Road and Infrastructure Cess was increased by ` 3/litre on petrol and diesel with effect from 14.03.2020.

(c) In the past, Central Government had reduced Excise duty and had requested the State Governments to reduce VAT imposed by them on petrol and diesel.

Single window clearances for oil exploration

2840. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH:

SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

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

(a) whether Government has undertaken/initiated any steps towards single window clearances for exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has launched a portal that connects upstream companies to different arms of the Government and allows electronic filing/online submission of applications to obtain various clearances/approvals/Certificates like Petroleum Exploration License/Petroleum Mining Lease, Vessel Clearance, Expat Clearance, Production Sharing Contract Management Processes and Essentiality Certificates etc. In addition, DGH portal also provides for online submission of applications through Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) portal and viewing the status of application for environmental clearance.

Coal Bed Methane Policy

2841. SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has any plans to update the Coal Bed Methane Policy of 1997, or introduce a new policy on unconventional hydrocarbons, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the Coal Bed Methane blocks allocated to companies for exploration and exploitation, State-wise list thereof;

(c) whether any company has begun commercial production of Coal Bed Methane, if so, the details thereof;