

(a) whether it is a fact that Liquefied Petroleum GAS (LPG) is an environment friendly auto fuel;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to promote LPG as auto fuel;

(c) whether Government plan to keep a suitable difference between the prices of petrol and LPG so that it encourages people to switch over to LPG from petrol; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have amended the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to enable the use of LPG as auto fuel in motor vehicles. Code of Practice for use of LPG as an auto fuel and LPG (Regulation of Use in Motor Vehicles) Order etc. are under formulation. Further, Public Sector Oil Marketing companies have also initiated action to set up auto LPG dispensing stations in a phased manner.

(c) and (d) At present, Motor Spirit (Petrol) is a controlled product. However, LPG used for auto fuel purpose would be a decontrolled product and its price will be market-driven.

Floods in West Bengal

*328. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of allegations made by certain sections as reported in the media that the recent floods of rare severity in West Bengal were due to the Indo-Bangladesh Water sharing agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) Government of India is not aware of allegations made by certain sections that the recent floods of rare severity in West Bengal were due to the Indo-Bangladesh Water Sharing Agreement of Ganga. Indo-Bangladesh Water Sharing Agreement pertains to sharing of lean season (January to May) flow of Ganga at Farakka and is not in anyway connected to the recent floods in West Bengal.