श्री राम नाईक: सभापति जी, औचित्य तो यह है कि अचानक युद्ध के कारण हिन्दुस्तान में सप्लाई आनी बंद हो जाती है, क्रूड ऑयल की भी बंद हो जाती है जिससे एलपीजी के संबंध में समस्या पैदा हो सकती है। चूंकि यह ग्राहकों के लिए अति आवश्यक होती है इसलिए हमने सोचा कि ग्राहकों को सुरक्षा देनी चाहिए। इसी वजह से ज्यादा इम्पोर्ट किया गया।

प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव: महोदय, जो जवाब माननीय मंत्री जी ने दिया है, उसे अगर आप देखें तो आप पाएंगे कि जब कीमत सबसे ज्यादा कम है तब सबसे कम इम्पोर्ट किया गया है और सबसे ज्यादा कीमत है तो इम्पोर्ट सबसे ज्यादा है। इम्पोर्ट में और कीमत की बढ़ोतरी में डायरैक्ट preportion है। इससे स्वाभाविक रूप से लोगों के मन में संदेह पैदा होता है कि जब कीमत ज्यादा होती है तो ज्यादा चीज़ क्यों मंगाई जा रही है? वैसे ही हिन्दुस्तान में लोग जो कर रहे हैं, उससे इनकी नीयत पर संदेह होता है। 197 और 370 का जो अंतर है, इसमें कितना फर्क है? जो तेल आपने 370 की कीमत पर मंगाया है, अगर यही तेल आपने 197 की कीमत पर मंगाया होता तो कितना फर्क होता, आपको कितना ऐक्सचैकर पर लोड कम होता, यह बताएं।

श्री राम नाईक: महोदय, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय तेल बाजार में जो दाम बढ़ते है, वे अपने हाथ में नहीं होते।

प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव: वह तो आपके हाथ में नहीं होते लेकिन तेल मंगाना तो आपके हाथ में होता है। जब तेल की कीमत कम है तो कम मंगा रहे हैं और ज्यादा कीमत है तो ज्यादा मंगा रहे हैं, ऐसा क्यों है?

श्री राम नाईक: महोदय, तेल, मिट्टी का तेल या एलपीजी यदि देश में आवश्यकता के अनुसार नहीं है तो देश में तकलीफ हो सकती है। इस बात को लेकर देश की जनता को परेशान न होना पड़े, इसी वजह से तेल मंगाया गया।

प्रो॰ रामगोपाल यादव: यह धंधा बिल्कुल ससपीशियस लगता है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक: इससे इनका टैक्स बढ़ जाता है। जितनी कीमत ज्यादा होती है, उतना ही टैक्स बढ़ जाता है। ...(व्यवधान)...

*228. *[The questioner (Shri Ekanath K. Thakur) was absent. For answer vide page 34.]*

Demand from Gujarat regarding gas price

*229. DR. A.K. PATEL:††
SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ:

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

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. A.K. Patel.

(a) the details of the demand made by Government of Gujarat in respect of gas price after scrapping of Administered Price Mechanism;

(b) whether Government are considering the demand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government in February, 2002 that the State economy is going through a difficult period. Brief details of this representation are indicated below:—

> Power forms an important input for industrial production. Any increase in the power cost is likely to cripple the industry. In addition, in the agriculture sector also, Gujarat has been in the grip of calamities cyclones, two successive droughts and an earthquake. Further, Gujarat is in a disadvantageous position due to low hydel capacity and the distance from coal-fields. Therefore, State economy will not be in a position to bear increase in the additional cost on account of increase in gas price.

State Government in view of this requested Government of India to proceed cautiously in respect of gas price increase as this will have far reaching adverse impact on the State's economy at this critical juncture.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Shri K.C. Pant, Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission has considered the question of gas pricing. Government will take a view on the recommendations made by GoM and decide the issue after full consideration of the matter.

DR. A.K. PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know that in spite of the gas being produced indigenously why is it being imported?

श्री राम नाईक: इस समय तो देश में कहीं से भी गैस इम्पोर्ट नहीं हो रही है इसलिए इस प्रकार की तुलना करना संभव नहीं है। जो दाम दिये जाते हैं, वे सामान्यतया उस प्रकार के होते हैं।

DR. A.K. PATEL: Sir, in Gujarat, most of the power generation is gas based and after the hike in the price of gas, it will badly affect the industry and agriculture. I would like to know from the hon. Petroleum Minister whether he will think of giving some kind of concession as is being given to other States.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, presently, the Government is considering the report, which has been submitted by the Group of Ministers constituted specifically to consider the requirements of the country, particularly, related to fertilizers and electricity generation. Only after reviewing the report the Government will take a decision.

*230. *[The questioner (Shri R.K. Anand) was absent. For answer vide page 35-36.]*

Decontrol of gas price

*231. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol gas price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what would be its impact on power and fertilizer industries?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) As per the decision of the Government in the year 1997, the gas price was linked to the price of a basket of fuel oils with a prescribed floor and ceiling of Rs. 2150/Thousand Standard Cubic Metre (MSCM) and Rs. 2850/MSCM respectively. Gradually it was to reach 100% price parity by 2001-02 after a review by the end of the third year. However, the gas prices have not been revised since then. Government is now reviewing the question comprehensively including long-term policy in this regard. The issue of decontrol of gas prices will be taken up when the long-term policy on the question is finalized.

Presently, under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) contracts, producers are free to sell gas at market price in accordance with contractual terms. Also, under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) finalized earlier with a number of companies, they are free to sell gas, while Government has right to buy it directly or through a nominee at a price mentioned in the respective PSCs.

Impact of gas pricing on power, fertilizer sectors would be clear once the long term gas pricing policy is decided.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, as far as decontrolling of gas