

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4367

ANSWERED ON:26.08.2004

INCREASE IN PRICES OF CRUDE OIL

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

- (a) whether the prices of crude oil in international market has been increasing constantly during the last three years;
- (b) if so, lowest and highest prices of crude oil in international market during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04;
- (c) the average price assessed by the Government during each of these years; and
- (d) the reasons for continuous increase in crude oil price ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): During the period 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, the lowest, highest and the average price of the Indian basket of crude oil was as follows :

(US \$/barrel)

Year	Lowest	Highest	Average
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2001-02	16.14	28.61	22.54
2002-03	22.23	32.60	26.60
2003-04	22.79	33.00	27.98

(d): The reasons for increase in the international crude oil prices inter alia include geopolitical instability in the Middle East region, increase in oil demand, especially, in China and USA, lack of spare production capacity to meet the increased demand, etc.