**Title:** Need to take steps to check increase in the price of natural gas after dismantling of Administered Price Mechanism

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (VADODARA): Sir, as a result of the dismantling of the Administered Price Mechanism from 1.4.2002, the price of natural gas is likely to be increased on parity with fuel oil/LSHS. This is likely to enhance considerably the price of power in the State of Gujarat as many of our power stations are dependent on gas. Therefore, the Government of Gujarat had written a letter on 7.2.2002 requesting the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to proceed cautiously in respect of the Gas price increase.

I would like to know the stand of the Union Government on the above issue.