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Title: Issue regarding import of Crude Oil from Iran.

SK. SAIDUL HAQUE (BARDHMAN-DURGAPUR): Thank you Chairman Sir. In spite of Central Government stance not to cut short import of oil from Iran, there has been a substantial reduction on import of oil from Iran. The Minister of State for Petroleum told in the upper House yesterday that the target fixed for import of crude oil from Iran for 2012-13 is approximately 15.5 millions tonnes. India imported 18.3 million tonnes crude oil from Iran in 2010-11 and 17.44 million tonnes in 2011-12. The target for this year is fixed at 15.5 million tonnes. This means India will import 11 per cent less oil from Iran. It also shows that there is gradual reduction of import of oil from Iran. This declaration has been made by the hon. Minister when US Secretary of State arrived in New Delhi in a bid to wean Indian Government away from Iran's oil.

Prior to that, the US Secretary of State in her recent visit to India demanded that India should stop importing oil from Iran and curtail trade and economic ties with Iran. She also acknowledged before the Congressional Committee that India has been responding to USA demand. Already this present UPA-II Government has succumbed to the US pressure on the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline and on the Iran nuclear issue. We know that the concern of USA is not for the cause of nuclear programme. The hidden concern of USA is for occupying Iran like that of Iraq and to take control of Central Asia. The present Central Government must not surrender to USA pressure. We have good relation with Iran for a long time. In the past, hon. Finance Minister has assured that it will not cut short oil import from Iran but in reality, what is happening is something different. India needs oil and gas from Iran. India meets a large portion of the demand from Iran. So, the present UPA must resist American pressure and act on the basis of vital interests of the country by not reducing import of oil from Iran. Considering the national importance, I demand that the hon. Prime Minister should make a Statement in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri M.B. Rajesh and

Dr. Tarun Mandal are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Sk. Saidul Haque.