

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir the international oil market is very volatile and it is difficult to make any long term predictions about oil prices. The future scenario of oil availability and prices depends on a number of factors such as the supply from OPEC countries, the growth in demand for petroleum products in future, success of conservation efforts, discovery of substantial new reserves of oil etc. It is difficult to reach a definite conclusion on all these factors.

(c) Steps being taken to conserve petroleum products, in brief, include

- (i) Replacement of oil with alternative fuels wherever feasible and possible
- (ii) Introduction of more fuel efficient engines and devices in the transport, agriculture and domestic sectors
- (iii) Energy audits and Fuel Oil Studies to improve efficiency of energy use in industry
- (iv) Use of improved practices to increase fuel efficiency in State Road Transport Undertakings
- (v) Reduction of fuel and loss percentage in Refineries

[*Translation*]

Supply of LPG through Pipelines in Gujarat

*486 SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABILDAS RANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state

(a) the cities in Gujarat which are proposed to be supplied LPG for domestic purposes through pipelines,

(b) the rates proposed to the charge therefor,

(c) whether Government have received any representations for reduction in the rates of LPG, and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY) (a) Supply of LPG through pipelines is not feasible. ONGC are supplying natural gas to Baroda Municipal Corporation for distribution in the Baroda City for domestic purposes. ONGC are also to supply gas to Gujarat Gas Company for domestic distribution in Ankaleshwar and Bharoch cities. Distribution in Ankaleshwar has started. Commitment for supply of gas for the same purpose has also been made for Surat City.

(b) The price payable to ONGC by the Baroda Municipal Corporation, Gujarat Gas Company and others is at present Rs 1400/1000 M³ of gas plus royalty, taxes etc. Price of gas in the future will be as decided by Govt from time to time.

(c) Representations had been received for supply of natural gas for domestic purposes at reduced prices.

(d) The Government did not agree to the proposal for reduction in natural gas prices. The entire question of pricing of natural gas is being examined by a Committee headed by Chairman, BICP. The report of the committee has not yet been received.

[*English*]

Pricing Policy of Natural Gas

*487 SHRI VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state