

**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 M<sup>3</sup> 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

(a) whether Government are following a different pricing policy in respect of natural gas supplied to different states; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Government had fixed the prices of natural gas for the first time in January 1987 in the following manner:

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i) Price of Onshore gas and Offshore gas at landfall points	— Rs. 1400/1000 M <sup>3</sup>
ii) Price of gas along the HBJ Pipeline	— Rs. 2250/1000 M <sup>3</sup>
iii) Price of gas in the North-Eastern Region.	— Rs. 1000/1000 M <sup>3</sup>
	with a provision of discount upto Rs. 500/1000 M <sup>3</sup>

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The above prices are exclusive of royalty, taxes and other local levies.

Concession in gas price for consumers in the North-Eastern Region had been given keeping in view the special development needs of the regions. The higher price of gas supplied through the HBJ Pipeline was fixed taking into consideration the transportation cost along the pipeline.

The prices are presently in force. A Committee headed by the Chairman, BICP has been set up to go into the issues of gas pricing. The report of the Committee is still awaited.

[*Translation*]

**Extension of Toofan Express Running between Howrah and Delhi**

\*488. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal for extending the 7/8 Up-Dn Toofan Express,

running between Howrah and Delhi upto Kota from Agra Fort;

(b) whether the said proposal could not be implemented; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said proposal is being revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

**Encroachment of Railway land at Sojat Road Station**

\*489. SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any part of the land of Sojat Road railway station of Ajmer Division (W.R.) has been encroached upon by the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and