

(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

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove the encroachments?

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

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Irregularities in I.D.P.L.**

\*490. **SHRIMADAN LAL KHURANA:**  
**DR. ASIM BALA:**

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints of financial and other irregularities in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited as reported in "India Today" dated the 31st March, 1990,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or contemplated in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY):** (a) to (c). Government has been receiving complaints about the alleged financial and other irregularities in I.D.P.L. However, none of them has so far been substantiated.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Petrol-Diesel Pumps in Uttar Pradesh**

\*491. **SHRI RAM SAJIWAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new petrol-diesel filling stations are proposed to be set up in Mau

Tehsil, Baberu Tehsil and Manikpur, Rajapur and Kartal towns of Banda district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(c) if so, the time by which the new filling stations will be set up?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY):** (a) and (b). As result of the surveys conducted, the locations namely Mau, Baberu and Manikpur in District Banda have been identified for setting up of petrol/diesel retail outlets.

(c) In view of the various steps preceding commissioning of retail outlets, it is not possible to indicate when these retail outlets will be actually commissioned.

#### **Prices of Khadi**

\*492. **SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring down the prices of Khadi;

(b) the total amount allocated by Government for the development and production of khadi during 1990-91;

(c) whether Government propose to set up more khadi units; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH):** (a) The price of khadi is fixed by the Central Certification Committee under KVIC by taking into account cost of inputs such as raw-material wages etc.

(b) An amount of Rs. 90 crores (Grant Rs. 50 crores and Loan Rs. 40 crores) has