GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2064
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21st March, 2022

Import costs of petroleum products

2064. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:
Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Petroleum and Natural Gas** be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the increase in import costs of petroleum products by 39.6 per cent between 2016-17 and 2020-2021;
(b) the details of the volume of natural gas imported from 2016 till date, year-wise, along with the import bills for the respective years; and
(c) in light of recent data which revealed that India's natural gas import bill increased by 61 per cent between April and December 2021, how this will impact Government's plan to reduce crude oil imports by 10 per cent by 2022?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a): To ensure uninterrupted supply of petroleum products in the country, Oil Public Sector Undertakings (OPSUs) import petroleum products to bridge the supply demand gap in the domestic market. The import bill of petroleum products has increased by 39.6% in 2020-21 in comparison to 2016-17 primarily due to increase in quantity due to demand growth, price increase in international market and exchange rate changes.

(b): The details of import of natural gas (quantity as well as value) in the last five years, year-wise, are as under:-

	Quantity	**Value**	
	MMSCM	**US$ (Billion)**	**Rs. (Crores)**
2016-17	24849	6.1	41084
2017-18	27439	8.1	52122
2018-19	28740	10.3	71867
2019-20	33887	9.5	67383
2020-21	33031	7.9	58129
2021-22 (April-January) (P)	26785	9.9	73899
Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, MMSCM: Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters			

(c): Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas works in collaboration with various Central Government Ministries/State Governments/stakeholders to achieve reduction in import dependency on oil. Since 2014, Government has taken multiple steps to reduce country's oil import dependency through refinery process improvements and various policies under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, Discovered Small Field Policy, Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, Setting up of National Data Repository, etc. Government has also provided functional freedom to National Oil Companies and wider private sector participation by streamlining approval processes including electronic single window mechanism.

Government has launched National Biofuel Policy, 2018, to boost availability of biofuels in country and use of alternative fuels like ethanol, bio-diesel and bio-CNG through Ethanol Blending, Bio-diesel blending and Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative respectively.

A Committee was constituted by the Government for "Preparing a roadmap to reduce the dependency on import in energy by 10% by 2021-22". The report submitted by Committee was accepted by the Government which envisages five-pronged strategy broadly comprising of increasing domestic production of oil and gas, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, giving thrust on demand substitution, capitalizing untapped potential in biofuels and other alternate fuels/ renewable and implementing measures for refinery process improvements.

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