

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1472
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15th December, 2022

Increase in Import Cost of Petroleum Products

1472. SHRI DIBYENDU ADHIKARI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for increase in import cost of petroleum products by 39.6 per cent between 2016-17 and first half of 2022-23;
- (b) the details of the volume of natural gas imported from 2014 till date, year-wise along with the import bills for the respective years;
- (c) whether it is true that India's natural gas import bill increased by sixty one per cent between April, 2021 and September, 2022; and
- (d) if so, whether this would impact the Government's plan to reduce crude oil imports by ten per cent by March, 2023 and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री रामेश्वर तेली)

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 first half of 2022-23 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) from FY 2014-15 till date, year-wise, are as under:-

Financial Year	LNG import quantity (MMSCM)	Value in US\$ (Million)
2014-15	18607	9549
2015-16	21388	6897
2016-17	24849	6128
2017-18	27439	8051
2018-19	28740	10253
2019-20	33887	9489
2020-21	33031	7864
2021-22(P)	26785	13382
2022-23 (Apr-Oct)(P)	16876	6615

Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell;
MMSCM: Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters; P: Provisional

(c): The details of import of natural gas in April, 2021 and September, 2022 are as under:-

Particulars	April, 2021	September, 2022	% change from April, 2021 to September, 2022
Value (Million US\$)	769	1354	+43%
Quantity (MMSCM)	2847	1878	-34%
Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell; MMSCM: Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters			

(d): 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.
