

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3654
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th March, 2022

Increase in Import Cost of Petroleum Products

3654. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) whether there is an increase in import cost of petroleum products by 39.6 per cent during the last five years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the volume of natural gas imported during the last five years and current year, year-wise, along with the import bills for the respective years;
- (c) whether the recent data revealed that India's natural gas import bill increased by sixty one per cent between April and December 2021, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether this would impact the Government's plan to reduce crude oil imports by ten per cent by 2022, 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 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, (P): Provisional

MMSCM: Million Metric Standard Cubic Meters

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

Particulars	April 2021	December 2021	% change from April 2021 to December 2021
Value (Billion US\$)	0.77 ^(P)	0.90 ^(P)	+16.9%
Quantity (MMSCM)	2847 ^(P)	2543 ^(P)	-11%
Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell, (P): Provisional 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.
