

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I can see the time closing in. We have *...(Interruptions)...* AICs are the issues. I am not concerned so much about their travelling free but what worries me more is whether the AICs and their free travel compromises on the safety and security of civil aviation.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the problem has been that too many people have been travelling for safety but they are not really concerned with safety. That has been the problem and that is why people have been penalised and we are in consultation with CVC. One person has been given major penalty. We are consulting with the CVC whether other people can be charged with that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, my question was that we know that so many people have been travelling in pursuance of safety norms. The fact of the matter is there has been a spate of civil aviation accidents, not just in Air India but in other private airlines also. Have they examined any correlation between the free travel by people who are supposedly to do security measures for the airline and who did not do it, and the accidents? Is there any correlation?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: There is no correlation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am afraid Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Fall in global crude oil prices

*66. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil stocks have risen by 0.2 million barrels in the US and 0.1 million barrels in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that crude oil prices have also dropped more than 25 per cent in the past four months;

(c) whether Government is considering to reduce the prices of petro-products, *viz.* petrol, LPG and diesel in view of drop in crude oil prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) No such data related to oil stocks of USA and OECD region is being maintained by the Government.

(b) While the average price of crude oil in 2012-13 in the international market has been slightly lower than the average crude oil price during 2011-12, the price of crude oil during 2012-13 in Indian currency has increased by 7% over 2011-12 due to sharp depreciation in value of Rs. against US \$. The price of the Indian basket crude oil during 2011-12 and 2012-13 (month-wise) as well as the exchange rate of Rs./US \$ is as follows:

Period	Average price of Indian Basket Crude Oil \$ per barrel	Average Rs. per \$	Average Indian Basket Crude Oil Rs. per barrel
2011-12	111.89	47.95	5365
2012-13			
April, 12	117.97	51.80	6111
May, 12	108.05	54.47	5885
June, 12	94.51	56.03	5295
July, 12	106.42	55.54	5910
August, 12*	105.85	55.58	5883
10th August, 12	109.84	55.34	6078
Average in 2012-13*	105.22	54.64	5749
* Change in 2012-13 over 2011-12 (approx.)	(-6%)	14%	7%

*Average upto 10th August, 2012

It may therefore, be seen that though the average price of Indian basket of crude oil in terms of dollar per barrel this year is lower by 6% than the last year's average price, but simultaneously due to depreciation in average value of Rupee per US dollar by 14%, the average price of Indian basket of crude oil in Rupee terms this year has indeed increased by 7%.

(c) to (e) The price of Petrol has been made market-determined with effect from 26.6.2010. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been taking decision on the pricing of petrol in line with the international oil prices and market conditions. Recently, in line with reduction in price of petrol in the international markets, OMCs have reduced the price of petrol by Rs. 2.02 per litre effective 3rd June, 2012 and Rs.2.46 per litre effective 29th June, 2012 at Delhi. However, as reported by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), due to rise in international price of petrol, their under-recovery on sale of petrol is Rs. 1.37 per litre based on the Refinery Gate Price effective 1st August, 2012.

In order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government continues to modulate the retail selling price of Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG and their prices have not been increased in line with changes in the international market. There has been no revision in retail selling prices of these products since 25.06.2011. As a result, OMCs have incurred under-recovery of Rs. 1,38,541 crore during 2011-12 which was compensated jointly by the Government and the upstream oil companies.

During the first quarter of 2012-13, OMCs have incurred an under-recovery of Rs. 47,811 crore. Based on the Refinery Gate Price effective 1st August, 2012, the OMCs are currently incurring under-recovery of Rs.12.06 per litre on Diesel, Rs.28.54 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs.231.00 per cylinder on Domestic LPG. Based on actual under-recoveries for the first quarter of 2012-13 and projected under-recoveries for the remaining three quarters at current prices, OMCs are expected to incur an under-recovery of Rs.1,55,074 crore. Hence, reduction in the price of Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is not feasible at present.

Revised schedule for delayed NH projects

*67. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued instructions to Government officials and private contractors to complete the delayed projects within a given time-frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had issued revised schedule for all the delayed National Highway (NH) projects;