

Regarding steps taken by the Government in response to Disruption of the Global Energy Supplies arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (RAEBARELI): Thank you very much, Speaker Sir.

As everybody is aware, a war has broken out in the Middle East. The United States, Israel, and Iran are at war. This war is going to have far-reaching consequences. The central artery from where 20 per cent of the global oil flows, the Strait of Hormuz, has been closed, and this is going to have tremendous repercussions, particularly for us, because a very large portion of our oil and natural gas comes through the Strait of Hormuz. The pain has just started. Restaurants are closing. There is widespread panic about LPG. Street vendors are affected, and, as I said, this is only the beginning.

The foundation of every single nation is its energy security. I do not say this lightly, but allowing the United States to decide who we buy oil from, who we buy gas from, whether we can buy oil from Russia or not, and whether our relationships with different oil suppliers can be decided by us ? this is what has been bartered. This is a very puzzling fact for me. It has been a very puzzling fact as to why a nation the size of India would allow any other nation, the President of another nation, to give us permission to buy Russian oil, to decide what our relationships should be. This has been a puzzle. I have been trying to figure out this puzzle, and I have figured out the puzzle. The puzzle is about compromise.

We have a gentleman sitting here who is the Petrol Minister. He himself has said that he is a friend of ... ?
(Interruptions)

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SHRI RAHUL GANDHI: Sir, I am talking about oil security. ?
(Interruptions) I am talking about economic security. ?
(Interruptions) ... _ ? (Interruptions)

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THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): Hon. Speaker Sir, I rise to inform the House of steps taken in response to the disruption of the global energy supplies arising from the ongoing conflict in West Asia. ? (*Interruptions*)

The world has not faced a moment like this in modern energy history. ? (*Interruptions*) Today is the 13th day since the passage through the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 per cent of world's crude, 20 per cent of world's natural gas and 20 per cent of the world's LPG flows, was disrupted following the military operation between Iran, Israel and the US. ? (*Interruptions*)

For the first time in recorded history, the Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed to commercial shipping. ? (*Interruptions*) Despite India having no role in causing the conflict, like many countries, India has to navigate through its consequences. ? (*Interruptions*)

The contrast with how other nations are managing this crisis places India's response in its sharpest relief. ? (*Interruptions*) A country in our neighbourhood has shut all schools for two weeks; moved Government offices to a four-day work week; ordered 50 per cent of public employees to work from home; cut fuel allowances for official vehicles by half; and taken 60 per cent of Government vehicles off the road. ? (*Interruptions*)

This country has experienced the largest single fuel price increase in its history, with petrol up approximately 20 per cent in a week. ? (*Interruptions*)

Another neighbouring country has shut its universities early and advanced the Eid al-Fitr holidays in order to conserve fuel ? (*Interruptions*) Nations across Southeast Asia have also been compelled to introduce energy rationing and conservation measures? (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, India's crude supply position remains secure, and the volumes we have secured exceed what would have been delivered through the Hormuz route? (*Interruptions*) Prior to the crisis, nearly 45 per cent of India's crude imports passed through the Strait of Hormuz? (*Interruptions*) Owing to the hon. Prime Minister's exceptional diplomatic outreach and the goodwill built with partner nations, India has obtained crude supplies that surpass what the disrupted Hormuz route could have provided during the same period ? (*Interruptions*).

Supplies sourced outside Hormuz have now increased to nearly 70 per cent of total crude imports, compared to 55 per cent before the conflict began? (*Interruptions*) India currently imports crude oil from 40 countries, whereas the number stood at 27 in 2006?2007? (*Interruptions*) This structural diversification, developed through consistent policy efforts over several years, has provided India with flexibility and options that many other nations presently lack? (*Interruptions*)

Refineries across the country are operating at very high capacity utilisation levels? (*Interruptions*) In certain cases, production has even crossed the 100 per cent mark? (*Interruptions*) There is no shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene, aviation turbine fuel or fuel oil? (*Interruptions*) The availability of petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel, kerosene, and fuel oil is fully ensured? (*Interruptions*) Retail outlets nationwide are adequately stocked, and the supply chains for these fuels are functioning smoothly? (*Interruptions*) Additionally, extra allocations of PDS kerosene have been issued to all the States? (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, natural gas supply has been carefully managed through a system of prioritised allocation, and the situation remains stable and well above immediate demand requirements? (*Interruptions*) India currently produces about 90 million metric standard cubic metres of natural gas per day domestically? (*Interruptions*) Previously, an additional 30 million metric standard cubic metres per day was imported from Gulf sources? (*Interruptions*) However, this supply has been affected due to a *force majeure* declaration by a major processing facility in Qatar? (*Interruptions*)

Following this development, the Natural Gas Control Order issued on 9th March, 2026 Commodities Act established an immediate priority allocation framework? (*Interruptions*) Domestic piped gas supplied to households and CNG used in vehicles continues to receive 100 per cent supply without any reduction? (*Interruptions*) Industrial and manufacturing users will receive up to 80 per cent of their average consumption over the previous six months? (*Interruptions*)

Fertiliser plants will receive up to 70 per cent of their earlier allocation, thereby safeguarding the agricultural supply chain ahead of the upcoming sowing season? (*Interruptions*) Refineries and petrochemical units are managing a controlled reduction, with the shortfall largely compensated through alternative procurement arrangements? (*Interruptions*) Large LNG cargoes are arriving almost daily via alternative routes, and India has adequate gas production and supply agreements in place to sustain this

arrangement even if the conflict continues for an extended period? *(Interruptions)* Electricity generation for both households and industry remains fully protected? *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is important to note that India previously imported around 60 per cent of its LPG requirements from Gulf nations such as Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, while the remaining 40 per cent was produced domestically? *(Interruptions)* Procurement has now been actively diversified, with additional cargoes secured from the United States, Norway, Canada, Algeria, and Russia alongside continued sourcing from Gulf suppliers? *(Interruptions)*

The LPG Control Order issued on 8th March, 2026 instructed all refineries to maximise LPG output and route the entire C3 and C4 hydrocarbon streams ? comprising propane, butane, propylene, and butene ? exclusively to the three oil marketing companies for domestic cooking gas supply? *(Interruptions)* As a result, LPG production has increased by 28 per cent over the past five days through refinery directives, while additional procurement continues to be arranged? *(Interruptions)* The foremost priority of Modi Government is to ensure that the kitchens of India's 33 crore families, particularly those of the poor and underprivileged, face no shortage? *(Interruptions)* Domestic supply remains fully safeguarded, and delivery cycles are unchanged? *(Interruptions)* The standard time between booking and delivery of domestic LPG cylinders continues to be 2.5 days, the same as the pre-crisis norm? *(Interruptions)*

Hospitals and educational institutions have been placed on uninterrupted priority supply, and their access to LPG is fully assured regardless of broader demand conditions. ? *(Interruptions)* Field reports indicate hoarding and panic booking at the distributor and retail level, driven by consumer anxiety rather than any actual supply shortage. The House should be clear on this. The rushed booking pressure in some localities reflects a demand distortion, not a production or supply failure. Delivery authentication coverage is being expanded from 50 per cent to 90 per cent of consumers under this system. ? *(Interruptions)* A cylinder can only be logged as delivered when the consumer confirms receipt through a one-time code on their registered mobile phone, making undocumented diversion effectively impossible to conceal. ? *(Interruptions)* A 25-day minimum booking period has been introduced as a demand management measure in urban areas and 45 days in rural and *durgam kshetra* areas.

OMC field officers and the anti-adulteration cell are coordinating enforcement at the distributor level. The Home

Secretary has chaired a meeting with Chief Secretaries of all States to align State-level administration with the Central supply and information framework. ? (Interruptions) Commercial LPG has been regulated to prevent black-marketing, not to penalise the hospitality sector. Commercial LPG is sold in a completely deregulated, over-the-counter market at market price without any Government subsidy. ? (Interruptions) There is no registration system, no booking requirement, no digital authentication and no delivery confirmation mechanism. Any business or individual can purchase cylinders in any quantity at the point of sale with no Government control in normal times.

In a supply constrained environment where public anxiety is elevated, this deregulated structure creates a direct and uncontrolled pathway for hoarding, diversion and resale at inflated prices. ? (Interruptions) The commercial supply has been diverted to the grey market at the expense of genuine commercial consumers and domestic wholesalers alike. ? (Interruptions) The Government has, therefore, taken the responsible course to regulate this channel with clear priorities and a transparent allocation mechanism.

A three-member committee comprising Executive Directors from TOCL, HPCL and BPCL was constituted on 9th March 2026. Extensive meetings have been held with State Civil Supply Departments and restaurant associations across the country and are continuing. ? (Interruptions) The Committee has assessed genuine need by geography and sector to ensure available commercial volumes meet commercial LPG requirements. It is going to be supplied from today by OMCs in coordination with the State Government so that there is no hoarding or black marketing. ? (Interruptions) Alternate fuel options are being activated to ease pressure on LPG and gas channels. Kerosene is being made available through retail outlets and PDS channels and fuel oil is being made available for industrial and commercial consumers.

The Ministry of Environment has advised State Pollution Control Boards to permit for the duration of this crisis period, the use of biomass, RDF pellets and kerosene coal as alternate fuels for the hospitality and restaurant segment for one month, which would enable a wider range of establishments to switch and free up LPG for priority consumers.

Consumer prices have been shielded from global market conditions. Despite the Saudi contract price rising 41 per cent between July 23 and March 26, the PMUY beneficiary price has fallen 32 per cent in the same period and stands at Rs 613 per 14.2 kg cylinder in Delhi. ? (Interruptions) The non-subsidised

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16.45 hrs

([Shri Jagdambika Pal in the Chair](#))

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HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, you have been elected by the people to represent their concerns in this House and not to create disruptions. I will appeal to Shri K. C. Venugopal ji to kindly ask your people to vacate the ?well?.

? (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is not the way.

? (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will allow you.

? (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is my promise, I will allow you. You just ask them. Kindly vacate the ?well?.

1. 2019年12月31日，公司总资产为1,000,000,000.00元，净资产为500,000,000.00元，营业收入为1,200,000,000.00元，净利润为100,000,000.00元。

At this stage, Shri Imran Masood and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

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At this stage, Sushri Praniti Sushilkumar Shinde and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

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The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Seventeen of the Clock.

(Shri Jagdambika Pal in the Chair)

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