PM keeps silent on gas price offered to Lithuania by Gazprom

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BNS

Prime Minister won't confirm unofficial reports that Gazprom offers to supply gas to Lithuania for around \$370 per 1,000m³, i.e. 20 per cent cheaper compared with the current price.

"... As far as I understand, the negotiations will start next week but the value is different from the price you mentioned. We seek to lower the price for Lithuania as much as possible," Algirdas Butkevičius told the reporters on Tuesday in response to a question whether the price was \$370, which matched the price paid by Germany.



Asked to provide more details, he said that he could not make any comments. "I definitely won't tell you, but you are not right about the price of gas in Germany."



Unofficial sources said that Russia's gas giant had proposed to Lithuania to sign a 10-year gas supply contract, which woul include a "take-or-pay" clause that would cover 80 per cent of the contractual volume. Moreover, Gazprom proposed to lower the price by 20 per cent, which would be around \$370 per 1,000m³, in the first three years and to renegotiate it afterwards.

However, Gazprom also wants Lithuania to withdraw all of its lawsuits in Lithuanian courts and international arbitration tribunals. In addition, the gas concern wants Vilnius to commit itself not to file any claims in future.

Unofficial sources also said that the Russian company would not provide any compensation for overpricing in the past.

Butkevičius said on Tuesday that Lithuania in January paid 470-480 per 1,000m 3 of Russian gas, which was the highest price in Europe.