

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Only R and D studies are in progress presently.

(b) In view of (a) above question does not arise.

Procedure for awarding dealership

1460. SHRI R. a GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering for continuing with the old procedure for awarding petrol pumps and LPG agencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the public sector oil companies have requested to continue the practice on dealership as before APM; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (e) In order to provide commercial freedom to the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), in the wake of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism with effect from 1.4.2002, the Government has since dissolved the Dealer Selection Boards. The selection of dealers/distributors will now be made by the OMCs themselves in accordance with a new common procedure.

Entry of private companies in retail sector

1461. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of PNG has granted permission to private companies to sell petroleum products through retail outlets;

(b) if so, the names of these companies and the details of the agreement thereof; and

(c) whether social obligations in the allotment of retail outlets have been included in the agreement and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Government have granted the authorisation to market transportation fuels in favour of M/s. Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL) and M/s. Essar Oil Limited (EOL). These companies have proposed to set up 5849 and 1700 Retail Outlets respectively In various States.

(c) Government have asked the aforesaid companies to set up 10.9% of their total Retail Outlets in remote/low service areas to meet the requirement of such areas.

Import of surplus gas from Bangladesh

1462. SHR4 B.J. PANDA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether Government of Bangladesh has accorded its approval for the proposed export of surplus natural gas to India;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement reached with Bangladesh;
- (c) the arrangements finalised for laying the pipelines and time-frame fixed for actual flow of gas to India; and
- (d) the areas to be covered for distribution of this gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise. However, in case the Government of Bangladesh decides to export gas to India, a consortium of three Oil Public Sector Undertakings, namely Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Gas Authority of India Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited Will participate.

Anomaly in foreign postings

1463. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI K. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item