

Waiting list of LPG connections

3075. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether new LPG connections are not being given to a number of genuine persons in various parts of the country;

whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation has reported a waiting list of 0.47 lakh as on 1 March, 2008 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country; and

if so, by when the waiting lists is expected to be liquidated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers.

(b) and (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported that against the waiting list of 46,955 as on 1.3.2008, the waiting list has reduced to 25,077 as on 1.4.2008 for release of new LPG connections with their distributors in the country. This waiting list is expected to be liquidated by 15.05.2008.

R and D activities of Oil Corporation

3076. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

whether any budgetary allocations were made for R and D activities in respect of ONGC, OIL, IOCL, HPCL and BPCL during the last three years, till March, 2008;

if so, the actual expenditure on Research and Development by these companies company-wise and year-wise during the above period and what is the balance left out, till-date; and

what amount has been earmarked during the Eleventh Five Year Plan Period for Research and Development activities in respect of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) The required information is given as under:—

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Oil PSUs	Budgetary allocations made for R & D activities			Actual Expenditure on Research and Development activities			The total amount earmarked for Research and Development activities during the 11th Five Year Plan
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ONGC	155.00	170.29	148.15	108.37	86.36	128.26	833.67
OIL	16.48	16.65	35.63	12.58	11.50	16.23	216.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
IOCL	111	92	135	90	81	130	855
HPCL	—	7.00	10.00	6.77	2.88	7.53	55.00
BPCL	36.6	30.0	36.2	18.9	18.4	22.1	73.2*»

**For two years 2007-08 & 2008-09. Budgetary allocation for R & D activities for the next 3 years of XIth Five Year Plan Period in respect of BPCL not yet decided.

Gas pricing

3077. SHRINAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

whether it is, a fact that his Ministry in September/October, 2007 had presented to Empowered Group of Ministers on gas pricing that, in accordance with production Sharing Contract, the contractor has commercial freedom to market the gas;

if so, the details thereof;

whether Government has now decided to intervene in the court case filed by NTPC against RIL which is before Bombay High Court to protect the interest of a Government company and to fulfil Government's vision of "Power for All"; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

As per provisions of the Model Production Sharing Contract signed under New Exploration Licensing Policy, the Contractor has the freedom to sell the gas in the domestic market on arms length basis.

No, Sir.

The court case filed by NTPC against RIL is a commercial dispute between the two companies regarding gas supply agreement and the Government is not a party to this Gas Supply Agreement.

Forts of Shershah

3078. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

whether Government is aware that Shershah's Forts at Rohtas and Kalinjar in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are serving hideouts for Maoists;

whether Government is also aware that there is not even police pickets near these forts due to which tourists are scared to visit these places of tourist importance;

what Government is doing to give due publicity about the forts in Uttar Pradesh so that these forts can become the destination of tourists; and

how many forts in Uttar Pradesh are open for tourists and what development work has been done around the fort areas and facilities provided to tourists there?