

(b) how much crude oil has been produced by the private companies;

(c) whether the crude oil produced in Assam and North-East is sufficient for four refineries located in Assam (including N.R.L.); and

(d) if not, what is the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The crude oil production from ONGC, OIL and private/JV fields during the last three years are as under:

(figures in MMT)

Year	ONGC	OIL	JV	Total
1995-96	31.635	2.882	0.65	35.167
1996-97	28.685	2.870	1.345	32.900
1997-98	28.250	3.094	2.514	33.858

(c) No, Sir.

d) Numaligarh Refinery is expected to be commissioned in March' 99. The shortage of crude for 1999-2000 for four refineries located in Assam (including NRL) is expected to be 1.886 MMT.

Policy for LPG dealership in Tehsil Headquarters of Hilly areas

1968. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present policy to allot LPG dealership in Tehsil Headquarters of a Hilly State;

(b) whether the present policy of LPG dealership in Hilly areas has been reducing the forest areas of the region;

(c) whether the consumers of LPG in Hilly areas have to carry heavy LPG cylinders at risk of their lives;

(d) whether Government propose to amend the existing LPG dealership rules to set up the same in vil-

lages to avoid the apprehension as in parts (b) and (c); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) LPG distributorships are opened in the country subject to the locations meeting the feasibility and economic viability norms of the Oil Industry including in the hilly areas.

(b) In order to protect the forests in hilly areas, Government has allowed release of LPG connections across the counter at the locations situated above the altitude of 2000 ft. MSL in all the hilly areas.

(c) to (e) Generally, home delivery of LPG refills is made in main markets, where the LPG distributorship is located. In hilly areas, the villages are generally thinly populated and are situated far off from the main distributor's point and scattered in different directions. Under such circumstances, it becomes too prohibi-

buive for LPG distributors for providing home delivery from the cost angle.

However, in hilly areas because of high cost of delivery, which cannot be fully compensated through the distributor commission, the concerned district authorities authorise LPG distributors collection/recovery of additional specific home delivery charges called as coolage charges from the domestic LPG consumers. Therefore, there is no proposal to amend the existing rules in respect of hilly areas.

पेट्रोल और प्राकृतिक गैस की खोज संबंधी सर्वेक्षण

1969. श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस की खोज के लिए किन-किन स्थानों का सर्वेक्षण किया गया है, और

(ख) क्या राजस्थान में पेट्रोलियम व प्राकृतिक गैस होने का पता लगाया गया है यदि हां, तो उसका व्यौरा क्या है ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार) :

(क) अपेक्षित जानकारी अनुबंध में दी गई है।

(ख) जी हां। ओ. एन. जी. सी., ग्रायल इंडिया लि० तथा निजी/संयुक्त उद्यम प्रचालकों ने मिलकर राजस्थान में निम्नलिखित अन्वेषण व विकास कार्य किए :

(i) भूकंपीय सर्वेक्षण :

विआयामी 35170 जीएलके

विआयामी 314 वर्ग कि.मी

(ii) वेधित कूपों की संख्या 109

राजस्थान में प्राकृतिक गैस वाणिज्यिक मात्राओं में खोजी गई है। बीकार-नागौर बेसिन में भी कुछ भारी तेल का पता चला है।

LPG Waiting List

1970. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 409 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 1998 and state:

(a) what is the criteria for preparing waiting list for LPG and whether there is any mechanism with Government's to periodically review/regulate the list;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "LPG connections, the wait goes on" which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated the 25th August, 1998, if so, the reaction of Government thereto, and

(c) the action taken so far against the guilty people for alleged malpractices in oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) It is mandatory for all the PSU Oil Companies distributors to maintain a waitlist register for registration of prospective customer wishing to avail of an LPG connection. As per the existing practice, no registration fee for booking of a gas connection is being charged. New LPG connections are released strictly on the basis of seniority in the waitlist maintained by distributors within the allocation given by the PSU Oil Companies. Regular/surprise inspections of the LPG distributorships are also carried out by the oil company officials which includes verification in regard to release of LPG connections against waitlist in order of seniority of registration.