

The enrolment of new LPG customers and release of new LPG connections is a continuous process. OMCs have reported that at present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers. OMCs have further reported that they have released 0.75 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Jharkhand during the period April-November, 2008.

(c) to (e) City Gas Distribution projects have not been implemented in the State of Jharkhand, because, as of now, there is no natural gas pipeline available in the State.

In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for laying trunk natural gas pipelines and city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006' and notified the 'Policy for Development of Natural Gas Pipelines and City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks'. Providing of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) facilities depends upon availability of gas, setting up of necessary infrastructure and economic viability.

#### **Picking up oil assets in abroad**

2437. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is making efforts to pick up stake in assets of oil majors in other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof, country-wise;

(c) the revenue likely to be earned from each country;

(d) whether MoUs have been signed during the last four years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India's strategy for securing energy security has been incorporated in "Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" a document of Government of India, which includes investment in equity oil abroad. Presently, oil PSUs, namely ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Gail (India) Limited have presence in 20 overseas countries, viz. Russia, Sudan, Vietnam, Iran, Libya, Syria, Myanmar, Iraq, Egypt, Cuba, Nigeria, Sao-Tome-Principe Joint Development Zone, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil, Turkmenistan, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Yemen and Australia. The revenue likely to be earned from producing fields abroad during 2008-09 is approximately Rs. 14595.05 Crore.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) have been signed by National Oil Companies during the last four years with various Oil companies based in Bangladesh, Korea, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Venezuela, Nigeria, Iran, China, Mauritius, Japan, Ecuador, Brazil, Indonesia, Kuwait.