

(a) whether it is a fact that BPCL, an oil marketing company, has decided to pay 70 per cent dividend to its shareholders out of the profit earned in the financial year 2007-08 and whether Indian Oil Corporation also earned a net profit to the tune of Rs.2,599.40 crore during the said period;

(b) if not, the details in this regard;

(c) whether while both these companies earned profit during the said period, the other oil companies suffered losses; and

(d) if so, the estimate of losses suffered by each oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has paid 40 per cent dividend to its shareholders out of the Rs. 1,580.56 crore net profit earned by the company during the financial year 2007-08. During the same period, the other public sector oil marketing companies, viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), GAIL India Ltd. and Oil India Limited (OIL) have earned net profit of Rs.6,962,58 Crore, Rs.1,134.88 crore, Rs.20,221 crore, 2,601 crore and Rs.1,789 crore respectively.

Jathropha Blended Diesel

†951. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided in 2003 to mix Jatropha oil in diesel with a view to increase the availability of diesel and to reduce its prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above decision was not implemented upto the beginning of the year 2009; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and by when the decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) No Sir. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has announced a Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, in October, 2005 to encourage production of Bio-diesel in the country, which became effective from 1.1.2006. Under this scheme Oil Marketing Companies will purchase Bio-diesel for blending with High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the extent of 5% at identified purchase centres across the country. OMCs would buy Bio-diesel at a uniform landed price, which is to be reviewed every six months. At present the purchase price of Bio-diesel is at Rs. 26.50 per litre.

The Policy has identified 20 Purchase Centres of the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) all over the country. The OMCs would purchase Bio-diesel meeting the standards

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prescribed by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), from those Bio-diesel manufacturers who register with them after satisfying the technical specifications, at the specified delivered price.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies have not been able to purchase bio-diesel at the identified Purchase Centres so far, as the parties who have expressed interest are not willing to supply at the declared price.

Shortage of Gas Cylinders

952. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

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

(a) the details of the reasons for shortage of gas cylinders to domestic consumers all over the country, especially in U.P., Andhra Pradesh and Kerala;

(b) the measures taken to ensure timely supply of cylinders in the States where the minimum waiting period at present is 40 days;

(c) whether there is adequate supply of cylinders and if so, the details of action taken against the erring dealers who have been creating artificial shortage of gas cylinders;

(d) whether any centralized complaint receiving/redressal mechanism is available to consumers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

(c) OMCs have reported that presently, LPG supplies to all the States are normal. OMCs take action as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) against the distributors, if it is established that artificial shortage is being created by the distributors by deliberately delaying refill supplies to the customers.

(d) to (f) Yes, Madam. In order to have a more convenient, easy and effective way to enable the customer to register their complaints for redressal, OMCs viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have started the services of Toll Free Numbers for complaint registration through call centers w.e.f. 02.10.2008. The numbers of the OMCs for LPG are as under:-