

(a) the number of CNG distribution centres opened for vehicles in different States during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether CNG distribution centres have been opened in any city in Rajasthan during the said period; if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the directions of the Rajasthan High Court, Jodhpur would be complied with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) According to information available, the number of CNG distribution centres opened during the last three years are as follows:-

| Name of State | 2008-09 | 2007-08 | 2006-07 |
|----------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Gujarat | 18 | 36 | 49 |
| Delhi | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Maharashtra | 13 | 4 | 7 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 02 | 1 | 8 |
| U.P. | 08 | 3 | 10 |
| Haryana | 02 | 0 | 0 |
| Tripura | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| M.P. | 01 | 00 | 00 |

(b) Presently, City Gas Distribution has not been started in any city of Rajasthan.

(c) and (d) Development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in a particular city/town/area depends *inter alia* on proximity to natural gas trunk pipeline network, availability of natural gas and economic viability of the CGD project. City gas distribution has not started till now in Rajasthan largely because of the relatively limited natural gas trunk pipeline network in the State. In order to promote investment from public as well as private sector for *inter alia* city/local natural gas distribution networks throughout the country, the Government of India has enacted 'The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006'. As regards Rajasthan, PNGRB has finalized the selection of an entity for setting up City Gas Distribution (CGD) Project in Kota.

Bidding for oil and gas blocks

961. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether VIII round of bidding for oil and gas blocks has been held;

(b) if so, the details of blocks that are going to be auctioned in VIII round, State-wise;

(c) the details of concessions proposed through the above auction;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the global recession on the bidding process; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Eighth round of bidding under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII) was launched on 9.4.2009.

(b) 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) have been offered under NELP-VIII. The details of onland blocks state-wise are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) NELP-VIII round blocks will be awarded through international competitive bidding system on the basis of Bid Evaluation Criteria (BEC) indicated in Notice Inviting Offers (NIO).

(d) and (e) In-house assessment about global recession on bidding round was made by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Based on the assessment, only prospective blocks are put on offer where response is expected to be good.

Statement

Onland blocks of NELP VIII

| Basin | Block Name | Approx. Area (in Sq. kms.) | Map ref. no. | States | Districts |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1 | Assam-Arakan AA-ONN-2009/1 | 2217 | 1 | Manipur | Churachandpur, Imphal West, Tamenglong. |
| 2 | AA-ONN-2009/2 | 1740 | 2 | Manipur | Imphal West, Tamenglong |
| 3 | AA-ONN-2009/3 | 84 | 3 | Assam | Jorhat |
| 4 | AA-ONN-2009/4 | 84 | 4 | Assam | Jorhat |
| 5 | Bengal WB-ONN-2009/1 | 1519 | 5 | West Bengal | North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas |
| 6 | WB-ONN-2009/2 | 1887 | 6 | West Bengal | Haora, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|----|----------------------------------|------|-------------|----------------|---|
| 7 | VN-ONN-2009/1 | 1405 | 7 | Madhya Pradesh | Panna |
| 8 | Vindhyan VN-ONN-2009/2 | 1562 | 8 | Madhya Pradesh | Damoh, Chhatarpur |
| 9 | VN-ONN-2009/3 | 1250 | 9 | Madhya Pradesh | Damoh, Chhatarpur |
| 10 | Himalayan Foothill HF-ONN-2009/1 | 1930 | 10 | Haryana | Panchkula, Ambala, Yamunanagar, Kurukshetra |
| 11 | Cambay CB-ONN-2009/1 | 113 | 11 | Gujarat | Patan, Mahesana, |
| 12 | CB-ONN-2009/2 | 68 | 12 | Gujarat | Mahesana, Ahmedabad |
| 13 | CB-ONN-2009/3 | 90 | 13 (A&B) | Gujarat | Mahesana, Ahmedabad |
| 14 | CB-ONN-2009/4 | 69 | 14 | Gujarat | Mahesana |
| 15 | CB-ONN-2009/5 | 165 | 15 | Gujarat | Mahesana, Ahmedabad |
| 16 | CB-ONN-2009/6 | 177 | 16 | Gujarat | Mahesana, Ahmedabad |
| 17 | CB-ONN-2009/7 | 144 | 17 | Gujarat | Mahesana, Ahmedabad |
| 18 | CB-ONN-2009/8 | 136 | 18 | Gujarat | Ahmedabad |

Decline in Oil Import Bill

962. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether the oil import bill has declined by 58 percent with falling crude prices;
- if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- what steps Government would take to control the oil import bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) No Sir. India's oil import bill in respect of crude oil and petroleum products during 2007-08 was Rs.3,33,699 crore or US \$ 83,115 million. The import bill during 2008-09 was Rs.4,02,780 crore or US \$ 89,200 million.

(c) The Government has formulated several plans to control the oil import bill. These are as follows: