

- (f) Outstanding Sports Persons (OSP) - 2%
(g) Open category (O) - 50%

33% in each category is reserved for women belonging to that category.

As per the procedure, the locations found economically feasible are included in the marketing plans and are advertised by the oil marketing companies. The selection of dealers/distributors is made through Dealer Selection Boards (DSBs)

Sanction of Petrol Pumps to SCs/STs and Minority Community in Rural Bihar

†1638. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of petrol pumps sanctioned for the rural areas of Bihar during the last five years; year-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the number of persons belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and minority community out of the persons who have been sanctioned petrol pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The year-wise number of retail outlet dealerships allotted in the rural areas of Bihar during the last 5 years is given below:—

| Year | Number of retail outlet dealerships allotted. |
|---------|---|
| 1995-96 | 8 |
| 1996-97 | — |
| 1997-98 | — |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

| Year | Number of retail outlet dealerships allotted. |
|-----------|---|
| 1998-99 | 2 |
| 1999-2000 | 3 |
| Total | 13 |

(b) Three retail outlet dealerships were allotted to persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and two to persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes in the rural areas of Bihar during the last five years. There is no reservation for the minority communities in the allotment of dealerships/distributorships of petroleum products.

Opposition to Disinvestment of Oil and Gas PSUs

1639. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had opposed the disinvestment of the Government equity in certain Oil and Gas PSUs on the ground that they are of a strategic nature;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken by Government in terms of properly defining strategic and non-strategic sectors; and

(d) if so, when and the other details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The decisions in regard to the general disinvestment policy or the disinvestment proposals in specific PSUs are taken by the Government after inter ministerial consultations at various levels.

All the concerned departments and ministries express their views on the proposals under consideration and often suggest amendments and improvements to the proposals. These suggestions for amendments/improvements are duly considered by Government at the time of taking final decisions.

(c) and (d) The Government has clearly defined the strategic and