

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)'s advisory dated 19.1.2009 to all Central Ministries (available on web site [www.panchayat.gov.in](http://www.panchayat.gov.in)) elucidates:-

(i) Constitutional provision relating to the responsibilities of the PRIs in the planning and implementation schemes.

(ii) Critical role of the CSSs/ACAs in devolution of 3Fs upon the PRIs (it included an indicative activity matrix).

(iii) Comparative advantages of PRIs over the departmental structures in planning, implementing and monitoring of Schemes.

(iv) PRIs and District Planning Committees (DPCs) as the appropriate mechanism for convergence of plethora of schemes, pooling of resources and better outcomes.

(v) Essential features that scheme guidelines should incorporate.

(vi) Disadvantages of creating parallel bodies to the exclusion/dilution of role of PRIs and its Committees.

(c) and (d) Ministries have varied in the extent to which they have involved PRIs in CSSs/ACAs. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNAREGA), Mid-Day Meals Scheme (MDM), Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), Saakshar Bharat Mission, Girls Hostel in Economically Backward Blocks, National Rural Health Mission etc. are CSSs that have articulated the roles and responsibilities for PRIs. MoPR has been pursuing with the Central Ministries to provide appropriate roles to Panchayats in their CSSs/ACAs.

(e) and (f) MoPR has also issued detailed guidelines to States/UTs for devolving functions, functionaries and funds (available on website [www.panchayat.gov.in](http://www.panchayat.gov.in)) which include:- (i) need for Activity Mapping; (ii) steps in Activity Mapping for clarity on the role and responsibilities of Panchayats at different tiers; (iii) issuing of orders and guidelines by Line Departments regarding transfer of functions to PRIs; (iv) matching devolution of funds and functionaries to PRIs; and (v) role of Gram Sabhas and Standing Committees.

#### **Pricing policy of natural gas**

4270. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has informed Government that it is not feasible to produce gas from its Krishna-Godavari basin at the current sale price of natural gas;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it may influence the current pricing policy; and

(d) if so, who will be benefited from higher price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) The price of gas under the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) was last revised on an *ad hoc* basis in 2005. The National Oil Companies, viz, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL), have reported a loss on account of their gas production, which leads to lack of investment for Exploration and Production activities. To take a considered decision on the issue, views of the concerned Ministries, Departments and Planning Commission have been sought. The issue would be decided after taking all the views into consideration.

#### **Piped natural gas for consumers**

‡4271. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to provide gas to the country's gas consumers through pipe line;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether benefits to be accrued to the consumers under this arrangement have been estimated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of consumers obtaining gas through pipe line in the country at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has finalized 'Vision-2015' of the Oil & Gas Sector for 'Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond', wherein efforts would be made to provide PNG facilities to 201 more cities by the year 2015.

(c) At present natural gas is being supplied to 66 cities as mentioned in the enclosed Statement (See below). The number of consumers obtaining gas through pipeline is about 7 lakh as against 11.3 crore customers being supplied cooking gas through LPG cylinders.

---

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.