

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Government has not taken a decision on the implementation of the Expert Group's recommendations.

Shortage of LPG in Bihar

1325. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that consumers of LPG of State-run oil marketing companies have to wait for days to get the LPG refills;
- (b) whether Government is aware of newspaper reports that consumers are agitating in different towns of Bihar because they are not getting the refills on time;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure timely supply of LPG refills to the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including the State of Bihar 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.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 259 TMT of domestic LPG in the State of Bihar between April, 2009 and January, 2010 as against 230.64 TMT domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth rate of 12.29%.

OMCs have reported that they have instructed their LPG distributors to effect LPG refill supplies to genuine customers within forty eight hours from the date of booking, under normal circumstances. However, delay in refill supplies may occur in the event of backlog due to non-availability of filled LPG cylinders with the distributors for unavoidable reasons such as prolonged intense fog, bulk shortage and delays in rail as well as road movements of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints on deliberate delay in refill supplies, these are investigated. If the complaints is established, action is taken against the erring LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Consultant for evolving pricing formula for KG Basin crude oil

1326. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided to appoint a global consultant to evolve a pricing formula for crude oil produced at KG fields;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposal ensures that Government gets the best value for its share of crude oil produced from the two fields at KG Basin; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (d) Article 19 of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for the block KG-DWN-98/3 provides for the methodology for determination of price of Crude Oil. Government has constituted a Committee under the chairmanship of Director, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC). The terms of reference of the Committee *inter alia* include finalization of the terms of reference for the tender for getting the valuation of the crude done from an international pricing expert. In this regard, PPAC has floated a global tender for appointment of a consultant whose scope of work is as follows:—

- (a) Study the available crude assays of the above two samples of crude oil, *i.e.* Rajasthan field and KG Basin field.
- (b) Identify suitable single crude oil or a blend of crude oils in the International trading market as a benchmark for the PSC crude oils to be studied. Each of the crude oils may have a different benchmark. The selected crude oil/oils should be regularly traded with reasonable volumes and the FOB selling prices should be continuously available in daily Platt's crude oil market wire.
- (c) Recommend a mechanism for accounting the differences between the PSC crude oils and international benchmark in terms of the following factors:—
 - (i) Yield of main products (LPG, Naphtha, Kerosene, Gas oil and Residue)
 - (ii) Crude properties like API, Sulphur, Metal content, Pour point, Acidity, Viscosity and any other property which may have an impact on the pricing of crude oil.

Gap between supply and demand of gas

†1327. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there was no shortage of cooking gas and its distribution during the National Democratic Alliance Government;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the shortage of cooking gas during the United Progressive Alliance Government; and
- (c) whether Government has any data to find out the gap between the demand and the supply of cooking gas at present; and the details thereof and by when it can be bridged?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.