

building component in the 250 BRGF districts and under the scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana (RGSY) in the non BRGF district. In RGSY, some NGOs have also been directly funded on the recommendations of the respective State Govts. for providing training to PRI members.

The training under the above two components covers both male & female representatives of the PRIs. However, in order to address the empowerment of EWRs in a systematic, programmatic manner, this Ministry has launched a new scheme namely Panchayat Mahila Evam Yuva Shakti Abhiyan (PMEYSA) in September 2007. The objective of this scheme is to knit the EWRs in a network and through group action, empower themselves, so that both their participation and representation on local governance issues improves. This scheme also has a component of sensitization programme which is primarily aimed at and also will continue with suitable amplifications/modifications, as felt necessary enhancing the capacity of the EWRs and EYRs to take up their new responsibilities as local legislators and decision-makers under Panchayati Raj.

Selling price of gas in the country

†2706. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that selling price of gas in the country varies from USD 1.98 to USD 9 per unit;
- (b) if not, the lowest and the highest selling prices in the country during December, 2009;
- (c) the reasons for wide disparity in these selling prices;
- (d) whether Government has prepared any proposal to implement uniform selling price throughout the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As per available information, the lowest selling price of natural gas in the country is US\$1.08/mmbtu (Rs. 1904/mscm), which is the Administered Price Mechanism (APM) price for power & fertilizers customers in North-East. The highest selling price of gas in December 2009 was

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

US\$ 7.60 / mmbtu (Ex terminal - basis) for spot Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). The above prices are excluding applicable taxes, levies, marketing margin, transportation tariff, etc.

(c) The wide disparity in the prices of natural gas in the country is due to different pricing regimes. At present, there are broadly two pricing regimes for gas in the country, *i.e.*, gas priced under Administered Price Mechanism (APM) and non-APM or free market gas. The price of APM gas is set by the Government. As regards non-APM /free market gas, this could also be broadly divided into two categories, namely, (i) imported LNG and (ii) gas produced from New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) & pre-NELP fields. While the price of LNG imported under term contracts is governed by the Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the LNG seller and the buyer, the spot cargoes are purchased on mutually agreeable commercial terms. As regards NELP & pre-NELP gas, its pricing is governed in terms of the provisions of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed between the Government and the Contractors.

(d) and (e) To examine the concept of common pooled pricing, Government has asked GAIL (India) Ltd. to undertake a study. Report has been submitted to the Government and comments on the same have been sought from various Ministries, Departments, Planning Commission & other stakeholders. The report has also been put on the MoPNG web site.

Bidding of NELP-VIII

2707.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the outcome of the bidding of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP)-VIII; and
- (b) the expected increase in production from NELP-VIII blocks per year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Under the eighth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-VIII), 70 blocks (24 deepwater blocks, 28 shallow water blocks, 18 onland blocks) were offered. 76 bids were received for 36 blocks. Out of 36 blocks, 34 blocks are likely to be awarded.

(b) The commercial production of oil/gas from the blocks awarded under NELP-VIII will depend on the successful exploration, discoveries made, their commerciality and implementation of Development Plan subsequently.