

Under the burden sharing mechanism, Ministry of Finance has released budgetary support of Rs. 12,000 crore as the share of the Government towards meeting the under-recoveries for the year 2009-10. The PSU Upstream Oil Companies have also contributed Rs. 8,364 crore to the OMCs for the their under-recoveries on Petrol and Diesel by way of discount on crude/products during the first three quarters of 2009-10.

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has requested Ministry of Finance to provide a further cash assistance of Rs. 19,620.95 crore to fully compensate the OMCs' under-recoveries on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during 2009-10.

#### **Shortage of LPG supply in Orissa**

3504. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is shortage of LPG supply in Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh and Dijarguda districts of Orissa and in their surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to open new LPG agencies to SCs/STs in these districts and neighbouring areas; and

(d) if so, by when these LPG agencies would be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the State of Orissa including Jagatsinghpur, Sundargarh and Dijarguda district 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 132.8 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Orissa between April, 2009 and February, 2010 as against 127.4 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last years, showing a growth rate of 4.2%.

(c) and (d) As per the extant guidelines, 25% of the distributorship in all categories are reserved for SC/ST category.

Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana (RGGLVY) scheme which primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural house-holds, including BPL families has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been issued on 20.10.2009 by OMCs for establishing 101 new LPG distributors including 26 under SC/STs category in the State of Orissa and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy.

The selection of LPG distributorships is made by OMCs themselves, in terms of laid down guidelines. Commissioning/opening of distributors involves Field Verification of Credentials of the

selected candidate, construction of godown/showroom and obtaining statutory clearances. It is therefore, not possible to indicate any time frame for commissioning/opening of LPG distributors, but every effort is made to do as quickly as possible.

**Allocation of gas for Kawas and Gandhar projects of NTPC**

3505. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been initiated for allocation of 12 MMSCMD of gas from Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) to Kawas and Gandhar expansion projects of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) at the discovered International Competitive Bidding (ICB) price of 2.34 dollar/mmbtu without waiting for outcome of pending NTPC suit in Bombay High Court;

(b) if so, whether the same has been put up before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM); and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has decided to wait for the verdict of Hon'ble Bombay High Court in the NTPC-RIL case. Further, EGoM has decided that the allocations should be made to projects in the pipeline, as and when they are ready to commence production.

**Employee structure of PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal**

3506. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of all officer cadres, including members and Chairpersons (except Class IV employees/steno typists and PS/PPS etc.) of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)/ Appellate Tribunal since their inception with the names of Ministry/Department from which these officers were deputed;

(b) the officers who have already left PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal, with details of companies/Department/Ministry they have joined/retired after completing their term with PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to ensure that the PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal are independent of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The details of officer cadres including Members and Chairperson of PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal with the names of oil company/Ministry/Department from where the officers were deputed and the details of officers left/repatriated from PNGRB/Appellate Tribunal as informed by the concerned organization are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) As per the PNGRB Act, 2006, the Board and Appellate Tribunal are functionally independent of the Government.