

(b) and (c) A Steering Committee has been constituted by IOC to look into opportunities available in the field of nuclear energy for joint participation and the nature of role to be played by both the parties with a view of enlarge their participation are being explored by the Committee. The Techno-commercial modalities shall be firmed up in due course of time.

Declining profits of public sector oil companies

‡3493. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in the profits of public sector oil companies; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for the decline in the profit of the oil companies; and
- (d) the measures being taken by Government to arrest this decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) The Profit After Tax of the major petroleum companies namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL), Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) during the previous three years are given below:—

	(Rs. in crore)		
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
ONGC	15643	16702	16126
OIL	1640	1789	2162
GAIL	2387	2601	2804
IOCL	7499	6963	2950
BPCL	1806	1581	736
HPCL	1571	1135	575

(c) The retail selling prices of the four sensitive petroleum products namely, Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG are not being maintained in line with the international oil prices. Due to this, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) incur under-recoveries on the sale of these products. During the year 2009-10, the OMCs have incurred under-recoveries of Rs. 46,051 crore on the sale of sensitive petroleum products.

(d) Government has been following an equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism, to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries is shared by all the stakeholders; namely the Government,

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the Public Sector Oil Companies and the consumers. Ministry of Finance have provided a 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 their under-recoveries on Petrol and Diesel by way of discount on crude oil/products during the first three quarters of 2009-10.

LPG agencies in LWE affected districts of Jharkhand

3494. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to start rural Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) agencies in all the blocks of Jharkhand, specially in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the time-frame, for starting these agencies, district-wise and block-wise of LWE districts;

(c) whether there is large scale black marketing of LPG due to artificial shortage created by LPG agencies; and

(d) if so, the details of the strategy to stop such malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) scheme primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural house-holds has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been issued on 17.10.2009. by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for establishing 80 new LPG distributors in the State of Jharkhand and the selection of the same is in progress as per policy. The district-wise and block-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

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 so as quickly as possible.

(c) and (d) OMCs have not detected any cases of creating artificial scarcity by any of their LPG distributors in the State of Jharkhand. However, OMCs have detected three established cases of overcharging of LPG against their LPG distributors in the State of Jharkhand between April, 2009 and February, 2010. Action against all the erring distributors was taken under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).