

April, 2004 to conduct an extensive review of the working of AAC. The report showed that the AAC with its existing structure & functions could not play a meaningful role in the efforts to curb the menace of adulteration. Accordingly, the cell was wound up in July 2004.

LPG agency in Khagaria (Bihar)

†5056. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bharat Petroleum gas agency is located at a distance of 20 km. from market of Mahesharkut, Khagaria in Bihar due to which the rural population have to face great difficulty there.

(b) whether any communique has been issued for any gas agency at the said place (market);

(c) if so, the details of those agencies alongwith their dates;and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it would be issued?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have a distributor at Gogri, Jamalpur which is about 9 km from Mahesharkut and has been servicing some of the customers at Mahesharkut. BPCL have not received any complaint with regard to the services rendered by this distributor. Mahesharkut is also serviced by a distributor of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) at Khagaria.

(b) to (d) Keeping in view the low refill sales of IOCL distributor at Khagaria, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) do not have any plan to appoint a new distributor at Mahesharkut till there is substantive evidence of demand picking up.

Petroleum reserves in Bihar

†5057. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any information regarding presence of reserves of petroleum substances in the Gangetic basin of Bihar has been received; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.