

#### **Upstream regulator for oil sector**

1373. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been repeated demands from the petrol and natural gas companies for an upstream regulator for the sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has the intention to set up an upstream regulator; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) During the consultation process prior to firming up the terms and conditions of bidding for ninth bid round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP-IX) the Association of Oil and Gas Operators (AOGO) and a Canadian Oil and Gas Exploration and Production (E & P) Company operating in India had represented that an independent regulator for upstream sector may be appointed.

(c) and (d) The regulation of hydrocarbon resources is carried out by the Government through the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959. The grant of licenses and leases for exploration, development and production of Petroleum in India is awarded in a transparent manner under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and Coal Bed Methane Policy (CBM). These policies provide level playing field to National oil companies as well as private and foreign companies. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP&NG) through its technical arm, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), regulates and oversees the Exploration and Production (E & P) activity in the country.

#### **Job training to rural youth under NRLM**

1374. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is launching a scheme to provide job training to rural youth under the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of youth expected to be benefited from this scheme and how this number was arrived at; and

(d) what are the different skills or trades that will be taught to the youth and the reasons for selecting these sets of skills?