

OMCs have reported that the cases for setting up of LPG distributorships at the balance 12 district headquarter locations are at various stages.

Allotment of Kerosene to Uttar Pradesh

3278. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the actual allotment of Kerosene for Uttar Pradesh during the last three years ending 31st December, 2005 with the criterion therefor;

(b) whether the State has requested the Centre to increase the quantity of Kerosene for the State and the reasons given for the same; and

(c) the action taken by the Centre thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The quantity of PDS, SKO allocated to the State of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years has been as under:—

Year		Quantity (In Metric Tonne)
2003-04	---	12,32,633
2004-05	—	12,11,485
2005-06	—	12,41,772

As per the policy adopted by the Government of India, the Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) to various States/Union Territories, including Uttar Pradesh, was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 and upto 2004-05, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each of the States/Union Territories.

In view of the requests received from various State Governments for increasing the allocation, the Government of India have commissioned the first-ever detailed study of Kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December, 2004.

Pending taking a view on the report of NCAER the allocations for 2005-06 have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year to meet emergency/urgent demands for PDS Kerosene in States/Union Territories. For the 1st quarter of 2006-07, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2005-06.

(b) and (c) While no such request has been received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in the recent past, requests for additional allocation for floods/drought in the State were received in this Ministry during 2005-06. Additional allocations of 1320 KL each were made to the State during August 2005 and October 2005 against these requests.

Sale of IOC and ONGC holding in GAIL

3279. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IOC and ONGC have planned to block sale of GAIL holding;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the Nation by such a move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) IOC have already sold 50% of its equity holding in GAIL, fetching them net sale proceeds of Rs. 560.98 crore. Similarly, though ONGC Board have also approved the sale of their holding in GAIL, the plan to do so at an appropriate time, depending upon their liquidity requirements and other commercial considerations.

(c) By sale of their holdings in GAIL, not only the profitability, network and liquidity position of IOC and ONGC is expected to improve, but it would also help them fund their new projects, benefitting the nation as well.

Mixing of Naptha in Petrol

†3280. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Naptha is mixed in petrol;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.