

**Scale-up studies for the conversion of waste  
plastic and low polymer wax**

3700. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether GAIL has initiated any research project on scale-up studies for the conversion of waste plastic and low polymer wax to value added hydrocarbons in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the research on the said project has been completed so far;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

(e) if not, when the said project will be completed; and

(f) the details of the expenditure so far incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of the project is to convert waste Polyethylene, Polypropylene in various forms and low Polymer Wax into hydrocarbon. The bench scale unit is designed, constructed and a number of experiments were conducted and evaluation of the products was done. When implemented, this will reduce environmental pollution and produce valuable hydrocarbons from plastic waste materials cited above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Successful completion is subject to successful optimization of process parameters.

(f) An amount of Rs. 28 lakhs has been paid to Indian Institute of Petroleum, by GAIL.

**Scarcity of petro-products in Assam**

3701. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is scarcity of petrol, diesel and cooking gas in Assam;
- (b) if so, the total number of diesel, petrol and cooking gas dealers in Assam;
- (c) whether the number of dealers are insufficient and consumers are not getting cooking gas as per requirement and they have to purchase LPG cylinders from black market;
- (d) if so, the strategy of Government to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) At present, there is no scarcity of petrol, diesel and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) reported in the state of Assam. However, at times, there may be temporary shortage of petroleum products in a particular State/Market due to disruption in the supply lines like strikes, bandhs, floods, poor road conditions etc. In such a situation, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take action to rush the product to the affected State/Market from alternate sources so that general public is not put to any inconvenience.

(b) There are 660 retail outlets and 271 LPG distributorships of OMCs in the State of Assam.

(c) and (d) At present, LPG distributorships of OMCs in Assam are sufficient to cater to the demand of customers registered with them.

However, the possibility of blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG by unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out. In order to stop blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" (Control Order) under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and also formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" (MDG) which provide for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in blackmarketing/diversion of LPG.

The OMCs release advertisements for appointment of regular LPG distributorships time to time for the locations which are found feasible. Further, Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana (RGGLVY) has been launched on 16.10.2009 to provide LPG to the rural households.

#### **Impact of rise in prices of petro-products on agriculture and middle class**

†3702. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.