

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The security NOC accorded by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in this case was unconditional. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposed assignment of 30% PI in 21 blocks subject to fulfillment of following conditions by the parties:

- (i) Parent Financial and Performance Guarantee shall be furnished by BP Exploration Operating Company Limited, the parent company of BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited, which needs to be acceptable to the Government and should be in the form and substance as set out under the respective PSCs;
- (ii) BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited shall submit all guarantees including an irrevocable unconditional bank guarantee and other documents in accordance with the provisions of the respective PSCs.

Quantum of cooking gas used by households

3059. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified any discrepancy in the quantum of subsidized cooking gas (LPG) consumed by the households;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which Government plans to tackle the problem;
- (d) whether Government is planning to introduce different pricing of cooking gas for different income groups; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) At present, the indigenous production of LPG is inadequate to meet the domestic requirements. The shortfall in availability is met through imports.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs, through indigenous production and imports, in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 3124.81 Thousand Metric Tonnes (TMT) of domestic LPG in the country between April 2011 to June 2011 as against 2823.87 TMT of domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth rate of 10.66%.

(d) and (e) A proposal is under consideration with the Government to give consumers a limited number of domestic LPG cylinders on the subsidized rate. The pricing and marketing modalities in respect of non-subsidized domestic LPG cylinders to consumers have not yet been decided by the Government.

R & D activities by public sector oil and gas companies

3060. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether R & D activities in petroleum sector are exclusively carried out by each PSU, like ONGC, OIL India, IOC, GAIL, Bharat Petroleum, etc.;

(b) if so, whether any percentage of earnings has been fixed for this purpose;

(c) whether the Dehradun based K. D. Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration is an integral part of ONGC or it is an independent entity under the Central Government; and

(d) whether the budgetary allocations for this Institute for the years 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 were actually spent or some unspent portion were allowed to lapse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Oil Public Sector Undertakings carry out R&D activities in house. In addition, other institutes like Indian Institutes of Petroleum under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and private players like Reliance Industries Limited also conduct R & D activities in Petroleum Sector.

(b) As per draft Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines on Memorandum of Understanding for R & D, a minimum 1% of PAT should be spent on R & D sector with effect from the year 2011-12.

(c) K.D. Malviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE) at Dehradun is an integral part of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).