

(b) if so, whether this proposal has been accepted by all the State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Majority of the States have accepted the proposal but few States have expressed apprehension about the proposed NEET which pertained to the syllabus, medium of test, reservation, etc. the Central Board of Secondary Education, which is the agency for conducting NEET for undergraduates, has constituted an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives from the States to address the issues of admission processes prevalent in various States like reservation, medium of test, etc.

Extension of PNG network

†*299. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of subscribers of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) is far less than that of LPG subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government has recently increased the number of cities identified for supply of PNG; and

(d) if so, the details of progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Against a total of 1328 lakh LPG customers, there are only 15.88 lakh PNG customers in the country. While LPG is being sold to the customers for several decades, the City Gas Distribution (CGD) projects are just taking off and its success depends, *inter alia*, upon pipeline connectivity, availability of gas and commercial viability.

(c) and (d) Government of India has enacted the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) Act, 2006, wherein PNGRB is entrusted with the responsibility of, *inter alia*, authorization of entities to operate CGD networks. PNGRB has envisaged rollout of CGD Networks over the next five years in more than 300 Geographical Areas (GAs) in the country.

Opening of new LPG outlets in Jammu and Kashmir

*300. SHRI G.N. RATANPURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of opening new LPG outlets in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been stalled due to a court case;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.