

(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.

(b) if so, the steps taken to get the stay order of the court vacated and open new LPG outlets in J&K;

(c) whether there is only one agency/ outlet at Jammu to sell non-conductor electric transformer oil; and

(d) whether oil companies will be directed to open at least one outlet in Srinagar also in order to sell non-conductor electric transformer oil?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The LPG distributors of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) had filed Courts cases in the Hon'ble High Court of Jammu and Kashmir at Jammu and at Srinagar, in which the Hon'ble Court, on 12.04.2010, has passed an interim order for maintaining *status quo* on setting up of new LPG distributorships at various locations in the State, where extension counters are being operated by the existing LPG distributors. Further, the Hon'ble Court has directed Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) to file objections in the matter. In compliance of the directions of the Hon'ble Court, IOC, BPCL and HPCL have submitted their reply for filing objections. The cases are *sub-judice*.

However, after filing the objections pertaining to the Court cases, OMCs have issued notice inviting applications for selection of LPG distributors for establishing 65 LPG distributorships under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana in the State on 10.11.2011 and the last date for receipt of applications was 12.12.2011.

(c) and (d) For retail sale of non-conductor electric transformer oil in the State, IOC has two sale points: a major stock point for direct sale and a Servo stockist at Jammu. Since free trade, it is a deregulated product, the customers in the State are free to take the supply from any of the selling/stocking points.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Clean drinking water in villages

†2171. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of crores of rupees are being spent on sports and space research programmes by Government, when crore of people in the country are deprived of clean drinking water even after so many years of Independence;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.