

OMCs (IOCL, BPCL and HPCL) in March, 2011 under which domestic LPG consumers of Delhi can book their refill only through the mode of short Message Service (SMS)/Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS)/Fixed Wireless Phone (FWP)/Website. These systems accept request for refill booking as and when done by the customers. Advertisements have been released in leading news papers in this regard for information and convenience of consumers. Also, leaflets containing detailed procedure for all these modes have also been distributed to the consumers for their convenience.

Gas connections for the poor in rural Assam

3068. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is contemplating any proposal to provide gas connections to poor families in rural areas of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has set any target for providing subsidised gas connections to the poor families in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b) A proposal for providing one time financial assistance to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in the country, including in the State of Assam, for acquiring new LPG connection is under consideration of the Government. Under the proposed scheme, the Government and the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) would provide one time assistance of ₹ 1400 for acquiring a new LPG connection to a BPL family, which would cover the present security deposit on a LPG cylinder and regulator.

(c) and (d) The "Vision 2015" adopted for LPG sector, *inter-alia*, focuses on raising the population coverage of LPG with the focus on rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low. The Vision-2015 envisages to achieve 75% population coverage in the country by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections by 2015 especially in rural areas and under-served areas. To ensure that growth of LPG usage is evenly spread, OMCs are assessing/identifying locations in a phased manner under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana (RGGLVY).

The RGGLVY, which primarily aims at providing LPG to the rural households, including BPL families, has been launched on 16.10.2009. Under the Scheme, as on 01-11-2011, the public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have undertaken to set up 3758 LPG distributors in 26 States, including 35 locations in the State of Assam.