

(e) if so, the recommendation/outcome of the EGoM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) A proposal was worked out to restrict the number of cylinders to be supplied at subsidized rate to registered customers of domestic LPG but the Government has not taken a decision in this regard.

(b) The question of Oil Marketing Companies endorsing the proposal is not relevant, as the Public Sector OMCs are mandated to carry out policy decisions of the Government. Although some Public Representatives have raised concerns relating to the proposal to restrict the number of subsidized refills, the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2010-11) on Demands for Grants (2011-12) in its 8th Report has recommended that in order to restrict the increasing burden of subsidy, supply of the Domestic LPG refills should be done away with rich and affluent people with income of Rs.6 lakhs and above per annum, including those holding constitutional posts, public representatives like MPs, MLAs/MLCs.

(c) At present, subsidy on account of Domestic LPG is unlimited, as there is no restriction on the number of refills supplied to a household. The proposal was intended to restrict the quantum of subsidy payable by the Government.

(d) and (e) The proposal was placed before the Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Under-recoveries of the Oil Marketing Companies for consideration, in its meeting held on 8th August, 2011, however, the item was deferred.

Outdated technologies of Indian oil refineries

3063. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that old technology of Indian refineries are one of the major reasons for high cost of petrol diesel and kerosene in the country;

(b) if so, whether any action plan is there to solve the issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Price of petroleum products are not based on the cost of production.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Awarding of exploratory block to Cairn energy

3064. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cairn energy was awarded RJ-ON-90/1 Block under pre-NELP;