

(b) whether most of the distributors/agents/retailers indulge in malpractices and irregularities;

(c) the details of complaints received during the last year and the current year against the distributors, distributor-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the complaints have been hushed up; and

(e) the action being taken to break the nexus between the officials and the distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) As on 01.10.2011, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are operating 1381 LPG distributorships, 4748 Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships and 697 SKO-LDO dealerships in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Based on the established complaints of various irregularities, action has been taken in 542 cases against the erring LPG distributors, 25 cases against RO dealers and in 32 cases against the erring SKO-LDO dealers, in the State of Uttar Pradesh during 2010-11 and the period April, 2011 to September, 2011, under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). The distributor-wise/dealer-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned. However, the company-wise established cases of malpractices are as under:—

Name of OMC	No. of established cases		
	LPG	RO	SKO-LDO
IOC	440	01	32
HPCL	81	23	00
BPCL	21	01	00

(d) No, Sir. Whenever OMCs receive complaints against their distributors/dealers for various irregularities, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken in accordance with the provisions of the MDG.

(e) No instances of a nexus between the officials of OMCs and their distributors/dealers have come to the notice of the Government.

Formulation of policy for exploring Shale Gas

†903. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new policy has been formulated for exploring Shale Gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when this policy will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has initiated steps for the assessment of Shale Gas resources in selected onland basins as well as to formulate a Shale Gas Policy. Implementation of Shale Gas policy is dependent upon completion of resource assessment, carving out of blocks and finalization of terms and conditions for exploration of Shale Gas in the country in consultation with all concerned Departments/Agencies.

Draw of lots for selecting gas distribution agency

†904. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has adopted a system of draw of lots ending the system of interview for distributing gas agency in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to restore the interview system;
- (d) if so, by when; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have adopted a system of draw of lots for selection of distributors under the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana as well as in regular LPG distributorships in the country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh. The process of draw of lots is video-recorded in the presence of all the eligible candidates, officials of the local administration, peoples' representatives, etc. It is a more transparent process and seeks to prevent complaints and litigation from unsuccessful candidates, which delays the selection process, and thereby slows down the pace of LPG expansion programme.

At present, there is no proposal to restore the interview system for selection of LPG distributorship.

Action taken by CBI on CAG report on KG-D6

905. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.