

receipt of proposal or from the date of receipt of clarification/additional information, where asked for by the Government.

(d) The proposals of RIL and EOL for approving the formula for pricing of commercial production of CBM will be approved in line with the provisions under CBM Contract and MoPNG guidelines.

Petrol and Gas Dealerships in Minority-Dominated Areas

2142. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of allocation of petrol and gas dealerships during the last three years;
- (b) the number of agencies allotted in the areas dominated by Minorities during the last three years; and
- (c) whether there is any plan for such dealership that may benefit the backward/marginalized populations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) Public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) i.e., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have commissioned 10,706 Retail Outlet (RO) dealerships and 3,386 LPG distributorships including Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojna (RGGLVS) during the last three years.

(b) and (c) RO dealerships are opened based on the feasibility & commercial viability of a location for setting up of Retail Outlets. There is reservation of 25% for SC/ST allotment of RO dealerships.

Diversion of LPG for Non-domestic use

2143. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage and number of households in the country without an LPG connection and the steps taken by Government to make it affordable for the poor households;
- (b) the percentage of households with multiple connections; and
- (c) the quantity of LPG diverted for non-domestic use and the steps taken to control it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH): (a) As on 01.03.2012, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving 13.64 crore LPG customers in the country, covering 58% population of the country.

The proposal regarding release of one time grant of ₹ 1400 to a BPL household for release of new LPG connection was submitted by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas vide Note dated 15.11.2010 for approval. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was directed that the scheme be re-examined keeping in view the feasibility of its implementation and the financial cost thereof in the medium and long term.

(b) As on 01.03.2012, 26.41 lakh multiple connections have been blocked which constitutes nearly 1.8% of the total LPG connections in the country .

(c) The possibility of diversion/blackmarketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements can not be ruled out.

In order to check blackmarketing/ diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has brought out the "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provide for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in blackmarketing/diversion of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints relating to refill supplies, these are investigated. If the complaint is established, action is taken against the erring LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

MDG, *inter-alia*, provide for following action against an errant distributor :-

- Fine of ₹ 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates forst offence.
- Fine of ₹ 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates fornd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3^d offence.

OMCs have introduced different colours for domestic and non-domestic LPG cylinders for controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

Further, joint inspections/ raids are conducted by the officers of OMCs in coordination with State Government officials to arrest the menace of pilferage of LPG and cases are filed by the District Administration against the culprits under various provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other relevant Acts.

Government has issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has been sought to report any irregularity/ malpractice to the OMCs.

Non-Attending of Complaints by IGL

2144. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: