(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) BPCL has made payment for the entire upliftment of crude oil for the period 2011-12.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) After the Asian Clearing Union mechanism was withdrawn by the RBI in December, 2010, the Government operationalised a new payment mechanism in August, 2011 under which all outstanding payments due to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) are being settled.

India has reached an agreement with Iran to pay 45% of the total value of crude oil imported from that country in Indian Rupee (INR).

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Procedure for opening CNG filling stations

†1046. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure to open CNG filling stations in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to hand over the CNG filling stations to private sector like in the case of petrol pumps;

(c) the number of CNG filling stations opened in the country so far, State-wise; and

(d) the names of the cities in Jharkhand where such filling stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) established under the PNGRB Act, 2006 grants authorization for City and Local Area Natural Gas Distribution Networks in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and the PNGRB (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate, or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network) Regulations, 2008. CNG filling stations are part of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network. Depending upon natural gas pipeline connectivity/availability, PNGRB includes the Geographical Areas (GAs) in bidding rounds for grant of authorization to develop CGD Networks and those who fulfill the eligibility criteria specified in the PNGRB (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate, or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network) Regulations, 2008 can participate in CGD bidding.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The authorized entities, whether private or public, then setup CNG dispensing stations within the respective authorized Geographical Area (GAs) based on the techno-economic feasibility and can operate CNG filling stations.

(c) As per PNGRB, the details of CNG filling stations in the country as on 31.7.2012 are as under:–

S.No.	State	No. of CNG Stations
1.	Haryana	13
2.	Andhra Pradesh	25
3.	Gujarat	284
4.	Madhya Pradesh	11
5.	Maharashtra	168
6.	Delhi	240
7.	Rajasthan	2
8.	Tripura	2
9.	Uttar Pradesh	29

(d) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has included Chota Nagpur, Dhanbad, Giridih, Kodarma, Hazaribag and Bokaro in the State of Jharkhand in its roll out plan of CGD network development. However, the development of City Gas Distribution network in a Geographical Area is based on the availability of natural gas through transmission pipelines in its vicinity.

Gas agencies in Hoshiarpur, Punjab

1047. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that representations have been received from the residents of Kol-Fatuhi, Mahilpur, Jaijon Doaba, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab to open the gas agencies at those places;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government is taking to open the gas agencies in these places; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Representations from the inhabitants of Mahilpur and Jaijon Doaba and the villagers of surrounding areas