

1	2	3
3.	BHP Billiton	5
4.	Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd. (CEIL)	3
5.	Santos International	2
6.	British Gas Exploration and Production India Ltd. (BGEPII)	1
7.	BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd.	1
8.	Focus Energy Ltd.	1
9.	ENI	1
10.	Jubilant Oil and Gas Pvt. Ltd.	1
TOTAL		52

Out of 52 blocks, clearances are pending in respect of 43 blocks from MOD due to defence related issues, 3 blocks from MOEF due to environmental issues, 2 due to maritime boundary issues and 4 from State Governments (Nagaland and Gujarat).

(c) Efforts have been made to get necessary clearances through meetings with concerned Ministries /Departments. As a result of this, Ministry of Defence has cleared 27 blocks. Efforts are on to get clearances in respect of remaining 52 blocks.

#### **Increase use of LPG in rural areas**

1816. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 85 per cent of rural India still use firewood, crops residue or cow dung as its primary source of fuel for cooking;

(b) whether it is also a fact that about 20 per cent of urban Indians too use firewood for cooking;

(c) whether it is also a fact that less than 10 per cent households use LPG for cooking in Bihar and Odisha; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken to increase the use of LPG in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) does not maintain data on use of firewood, crops residue or cow dung as its primary source of fuel for cooking and/or data on use of firewood.

(c) As on 01.07.2012, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are serving about 1401.75 lakh domestic LPG customers in the country, which is approximately 60.07% of the households.

OMCs are serving 40.80 lakh and 21.18 lakh domestic LPG customers in the State of Bihar and Odisha respectively, which is approximately 23.2% and 23.7% of the households respectively.

(d) The Government has formulated the "Vision-2015" for LPG sector to raise the country's LPG population coverage to 75% by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections between 2009 and 2015, especially in rural areas and under-covered areas, for which a scheme namely, "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana" (RGGLVY) for establishing small-size LPG distribution agencies was launched on 16.10.2009. Advertisements inviting applications for distributorships under the scheme have been released by OMCs in 29 States, including Bihar and Odisha covering 5261 locations. Letter of Intent (LoI) have been issued for 2003 locations out of which 1331 distributors have been commissioned and as on 01.07.2012, OMCs have released 11,50,567 connections through these RGGLV distributorships in the country.

#### **Irregularities at retail outlets of public sector OMCs**

1817. SHRI VEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the irregularities at the Retail Outlets (ROs) of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs);

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government proposes to conduct surprise checks on ROs and OMCs in a routine manner;

(d) the number of surprise checks conducted and details of irregularities detected in such checks during each of the last three years; OMC-wise;