

(a) whether Government propose to increase the prices of diesel and kerosene in the near future;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any further increase in the prices of diesel and kerosene will have an adverse impact on the prices of essential commodities and resultantly will increase the burden on common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no such proposal before the Government, at present.

**Allotment of gas and petroleum outlets under Scheduled Castes quota**

†2744. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of retail outlets of gas and petroleum products allotted under the Scheduled Castes quota in the country;

(b) the number of allocations of retail outlets of gas and petroleum products still pending under the Scheduled Castes quota;

(c) the reasons for their pendency;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the gas agencies and petroleum pumps allotted to the persons of Scheduled Castes community in Chhattisgarh have been kept pending due to some reasons or the other; and

(e) if so, by when Government would clear such cases by doing away with the pending process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A total of 4339 retail outlet (RO) dealerships and 1805 LPG distributorships including Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitraks (RGGLV) of public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) have been allotted to Scheduled Castes (SC) category in the country (as on 01 October, 2012).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) As on 1.10.2012, there are 659 RO dealerships and 485 LPG distributorships including RGGLV under SC category throughout the country, pending for commissioning.

(c) to (e) The reason for pendency of RO dealerships under SC category is on account of several reasons. First is the non-availability of suitable plots of land for development of the ROs at advertised location. In view of this situation, all pending Letter of Intent (LOI) holders have recently been advised to arrange suitable land at a place of their choice anywhere in the country irrespective of State/Class of market for setting up of RO dealerships subject to the offered land meeting techno-commercial viability norms.

Further, delay in commissioning of LPG distributorships is also caused by:

- (i) Delay in getting various approvals and statutory licenses from authorities like Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO), No Objection Certificates from various State Government Departments, etc by the LOI holder.
- (ii) Delay in providing of infrastructure viz. godown, showroom etc. by the LOI holder.
- (iii) Court Cases/Litigation etc.

#### **Constitution of Dealer Selection Board**

†2745. SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people, who have been allocated retail outlets and LPG agencies under various quotas fixed for widows, honoured soldiers and disabled persons in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the Dealer Selection Board constituted for the purpose of the selection of candidates and their final approval along with the policy governing the procedure of their constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A total of 53 retail outlet (RO) dealerships and 75 LPG distributorships including Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG

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