

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Government as per the decision of Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) has decided that the price of subsidized LPG cylinder be maintained at the current level with a cap of 6 cylinders per year for every consumer, and that any number of cylinders beyond 6 per year, would be available at market rate to be notified by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on a monthly basis.

The decision to cap was taken to limit the subsidy burden on supply of domestic subsidized LPG.

(c) and (d) Representations have been received to revise the annual cap, which are being looked into.

Problems faced by LPG customers in Maharashtra

551. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new guidelines for LPG cylinders has added to the woes of customers in Maharashtra;

(b) whether it is also a fact that customers have to wait for several hours to book gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, the steps the Ministry is taking to provide hassle free booking of LPG cylinders for the customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (b) No established complaint have been reported by any public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) distributorships regarding implementation of new guidelines for LPG cylinders or for refill booking w.e.f. 14.09.2012.

Though there are no established complaints, since the new guidelines have come into effect, certain procedural difficulties are being faced by the customers, which are being addressed on priority. Constant efforts are also being made to communicate various provisions to the public at large, through web site, press release, advertisements etc.

(c) OMCs are having facility of refill booking on telephone. In some of the select cities Short Messaging Service (SMS) and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) are also active and booking through the company website is also provided.

The complaints received by the OMCs are investigated and in all the established cases, disciplinary action is initiated under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Expansion of gas distribution network in Gujarat

552. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

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

(a) the time by when Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) would grant permission to Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPCL) to expand local gas distribution network in Bhavnagar, Amreli, Patan and Banaskantha districts of Gujarat, as the proposal of GSPCL in this regard is pending with PNGRB, since very long time; and

(b) the steps which have been taken by PNGRB for expediting approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has received Expression of Interest (EOIs) from Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation Limited (GSPC) Gas Limited for the districts of Bhavnagar, Amereli, Patan and Banaskantha in the State of Gujarat for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks. As per the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations 2008, the EOIs once approved by the Board are put for competitive and transparent bidding for selection of the entity.

Marketing margin of natural gas

553. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA:

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

(a) the details of steps taken by the Ministry, as on date, on the representation of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on the issue of marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers and when Ministry had responded to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in this regard; and