

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

(b) by when the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board will decide marketing margin of natural gas as due to lack of any regulation in this regard, customers are paying unethical price on natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) References were made by the Department of Fertilizers seeking clarification on the marketing margin being charged by Reliance Industries Limited on the sale of natural gas to the fertilizers industry. Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas referred the issue of marketing margin applicable on sale of natural gas by any marketer to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under section 11(j) of PNGRB Act, 2006 on 26.12.2011. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has submitted its recommendations to the Ministry.

**Auctioning of blocks under ninth round of NELP**

554. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

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

(a) the details of the blocks auctioned in the ninth round of auctions under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP);

(b) the details of total deep-water blocks, shallow water blocks and on-shore blocks;

(c) whether it is a fact that foreign companies did not win any bids in the auction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed by Government to attract foreign investment in the oil and gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A total of 34 exploration blocks were offered by Government under the ninth round of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding. Bids were received for 33 blocks. So far, 19 blocks have been awarded after obtaining clearances from various agencies. The Company-wise and location-wise details of the awarded blocks are as under: