

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the extent of the fire is so vast that there is a possibility of blast in the rig; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to reduce the impact of the fire and protect the rig from blast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no such fire incident at any of the ONGC operated rigs in KG Basin.

Diesel consumption by mobile towers

559. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the annual average consumption of diesel by mobile towers in India; and
- (b) the quantum of subsidy on diesel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that the sale of Diesel to various segments, including mobile towers, is made from their retail outlets (ROs) at the same price. There is no record maintained by ROs for different categories of consumers including mobile towers. However, as per the second round of survey conducted by the M/s A.C. Nielsen ORG-MAG (Pvt.) Limited recently, the share of consumption of diesel by mobile towers is estimated to be 1.68%.

(b) Total under recovery to Public Sector OMCs on sale of Diesel was Rs.81,192 crore (during year 2011-12) and Rs.52,711 crore (during the period April-September, 2012).

Production-linked payment system for petroleum products

560. SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to implement production-linked payment system for petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful to the oil producing companies and the consumers?

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

(b) to (c) Does not arise.

Restriction on subsidized LPG cylinders

561. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

SHRI ARVIND KUMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

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

- (a) whether Government has put annual cap on subsidized LPG cylinders;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) whether Government is aware that due to this step 80 per cent of the population of the country have been adversely affected;
- (d) whether Government is aware that cap on subsidized cylinders will discourage use of LPG in rural areas and resultant depletion of forest cover;
- (e) if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (f) whether Government would raise the existing cap to at least 15 cylinders per annum per connection; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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 subsidized LPG cylinders was taken to limit the subsidy burden on supply of subsidized domestic LPG.