

(b) if so, whether Government has fixed any stipulated time within which such permission is either to be granted or to be rejected with explanation/reasons;

(c) the number of cases for allotment of petrol pumps pending with the concerned regional officers of Haryana and Punjab, the details thereof alongwith name-wise and date-wise; and

(d) by when the cases shall be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) viz. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have reported that they have not received any complaint in the State of Punjab & Haryana from candidates/applicants regarding harassment by company officers in the matter of grant of permission/No Objection Certificate (NOC) for setting up of Retail Outlet (RO). Further, NOC for the installation of ROs is issued by Deputy Commissioners/District Magistrates of respective Districts in the country including in the State of Punjab & Haryana and not by OMCs.

(b) to (d) The process of setting up of retail outlet dealership involves various steps like scrutiny of applications, evaluation of sites/documents, interviews/selection of dealers, field verification of credentials, issue of Letter of Intent, procurement of land, obtaining necessary Statutory approvals, construction etc. Hence, the materialization of allotment/installation of the ROs after advertisements are fulfilled over a period of time.

There are 463, 69 and 193 pending LOI cases belonging to IOCL, HPCL and BPCL, respectively, pending for commissioning in the State of Punjab and Haryana. These are pending due to non-availability of land for Corpus fund allottees and / or grant of permissions/NOC from various Statutory Authorities and complaints received.

Gas connections for Uttarakhand

†3228. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) the number of gas connections approved for Uttarakhand at present;
- (b) whether supply of gas is being made as per the approved number of gas connections in the State; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have instructed their LPG distributors to register prospective customers and release new LPG connections to them as per the policy in vogue after due verification. Till February, 2013, OMCs has released 21.75 Lakh LPG connections in the State of Uttarakhand.

LPG supplies in the State of Uttarakhand are being made by OMCs in line with the genuine demand of the customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Measures for reducing use of diesel

†3229. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the effect of diesel price hike on transport sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has identified such areas in which the use of diesel can be reduced;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the approximate quantum of diesel likely to be saved as a result of this measure; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In order to reduce under recovery of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), the Government has authorized the OMCs to (a) increase the retail selling price of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.