

Tapping of shale gas

275. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government to tap shale gas;
- (b) whether the country has the requisite technology to tap this shale gas; and
- (c) how Government proposes to approach this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government has taken following steps to tap shale gas:

1. Formulation of a suitable policy to tap shale gas/oil is under way.
2. Projects initiated to identify prospective areas and resource assessment for shale gas/oil.
3. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP and NG) with Department of State (DoS), USA in fields of resource, assessment, regulatory consultations and investment promotion.

(b) and (c) The key technologies required for development of shale oil and gas are horizontal drilling and multi stage hydraulic fracturing. These technologies are being used in the country for conventional oil/gas and Coal Bed Methane (CBM) exploration and production as per field specific operational requirements.

Price of diesel supplied to fishermen

276. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any representation for reducing diesel prices supplied/purchases by fishermen communities or their societies;
- (b) if so, the details of such representation made and contention thereof; and

- (c) the details of the decision taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had received several representations highlighting the hardships being faced by fisherman consequent to the decision regarding supply of Diesel to fisherman under bulk category at non-subsidized price.

After consideration of the matter, the Government has decided that w.e.f. 7.02.2013 the supply of Diesel to the fisherman consumer pumps should be at the price applicable for retail outlets of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

Harassment of consumers by gas agencies and distributors

277. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that most of the gas agencies and distributors are indulging in malpractices and irregularities and are harassing the consumers without fear of any action;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government proposes to take to stem the rot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The possibility of malpractice/irregularities in subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the lower retail price of subsidized LPG for domestic use *vis a vis* the market price for commercial LPG. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are always on vigil and take action to stop the black marketing of cylinders.

OMCs carry regular surprise inspections at distributors premises, conduct refill audits, surprise checks at customers premises, en-route checking of delivery vehicles etc. If LPG distributors are found guilty of any malpractice, action is taken in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

In order to stop diversion/black marketing of domestic LPG cylinders, the