

investigations are submitted to the Director/concerned Business Head with regard to contravention of any of the approved policies for appropriate action.

Compulsory audit of PSCs by CAG

913. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make changes in the provisions of the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) between private and public sector companies for petroleum and natural gas to get them compulsorily audited by Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India; and

(b) if so, the time-frame thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Under the PSC, Government is already empowered to audit and inspect the records maintained under the provision of PSC. This right can be exercised by the Government through audit by its representative including CAG or audit by Chartered Accountant appointed for this purpose.

Postponing of hike in gas price

914. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the hike in the price of natural gas to \$ 8.4 per Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU) not been implemented and instead postponing till the next fiscal year;

(b) whether the proposed hike will lead to more gas discoveries or whether it will only augment unearned income of existing stakeholders; and

(c) whether the proposed increase will lead to hikes in power tariffs and fertilizer prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has approved the price formula for the gas produced under

NELP PSCs for 5 years from the date of commencement of supply *i.e.* April, 2009 upto March, 2014.

(b) The assurance for higher gas price is likely to encourage accelerated exploration efforts by the Contractors which may lead to new hydrocarbon discoveries. Further, the higher gas price may enable development and monetization of stranded gas discoveries in onland and offshore areas. The increase in gas production would also increase the government take in the form of royalty, profit petroleum and taxes.

(c) With the increase in the price of gas by US \$ 1.00/MMBTU, the additional cost of production of urea will increase by US\$ 24.893/MT and will increase the electricity cost by Rs. 0.45 per unit depending upon dollar exchange rate as estimated by Ministry of Power.

CNG filling stations in MP

†915. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State/Union Territory-wise number of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations opened for the usage of vehicles in different States/Union Territories during the last year;

(b) whether CNG filling stations have been opened in the cities falling under Rajasthan-Gujarat-Saurashtra region of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when CNG filling stations are likely to be established in the said regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There are 155 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations that have been opened during the year 2012-13, the State-wise details of which are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The numbers of CNG filling stations that have been opened in various cities/towns in the State of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh during 2012-13 are 60, the details of which are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.