

Natural Gas (CNG) and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) consumers in Delhi and NCR; and 2.0 MMSCMD of APM natural gas has been allocated to Mahanagar Gas Limited for CNG and PNG consumers in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

(b) Yes, Sir. A letter was received from the Chief Minister, Gujarat dated 24.01.2013 for allocation of domestic gas for City Gas Distribution in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Special Leave Petition (SLP) has been filed by the Central Government against the impugned order of the Gujarat High Court and the matter is sub-judice.

Setting up of National Gas Grid

1987. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given up the proposal of setting up national gas grid;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, the progress thereof and tentative date of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present, there is no proposal to set up a National Gas Grid. However, for transporting natural gas across the length and breadth of the country, a cross-country pipeline network is being laid throughout the country. The Government has set up a Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under PNGRB Act, 2006 as a regulatory body to plan, authorize and monitor the development of pipeline infrastructure in the country.

VAT on petrol and diesel

†1988. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of VAT levied on petrol and diesel in Rajasthan and the amount collected from VAT on these items during the last three years;

(b) the number of times prices of diesel and petrol have been increased and the excess amount received by the State Government as VAT due to increase in price; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government proposes to reduce the increased amount being received as VAT due to increase in prices, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Free LPG connections

1989. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many State Governments have launched a scheme of issuing free LPG connections and stoves to the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the said scheme has led to shortage of gas cylinders and regulators; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Some State Governments have launched various schemes to provide free LPG connections to BPL families by varying names and features *inter-alia*, Deepam in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu Free LPG scheme in Tamil Nadu, Grihalaxmi in Chhattisgarh, Vanbandhu in Gujarat, Antyodaya in Jharkhand, Tribal beneficiary Scheme in Maharashtra, Randhan Jyoti in Assam, Forest Scheme in Mizoram, Janta Mela in Sikkim, Mata Sabri Mahila Shashaktikaran in Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry Government Free LPG connection and similar schemes in Uttarakhand, Goa, Bihar, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.

Government of India has a scheme for providing one time grant to BPL families in the rural areas for release of new domestic LPG connection under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana (RGGLVY). As per the scheme, the security deposit for the domestic LPG cylinder and cost of pressure regulator is paid from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of ONGC, OIL, GAIL, BPCL, HPCL and IOC.

Apart from the above, in the recent past, Delhi Government announced a scheme, "Kerosene Free Dilli" to make NCT of Delhi kerosene free. New domestic