

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Culture/Archaeological Survey of India has not put forth any initiative for repatriation of the Kohinoor diamond. The cultural property taken out prior to India's Independence cannot be claimed on the ground of violation of any law. This issue is not covered under the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970).

Subsidized gas connection to rural poor

*415. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide subsidized gas connection to around seven million rural poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the details of such connections that have since been provided to the rural poor in Odisha;

(c) whether the entire subsidy is to be funded by the Central Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has set any target to help the rural poor in the above matter, if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a), (b) and (d) As per current policy, every household is entitled to one domestic subsidized LPG connection, whether rural or urban and is entitled to 12 subsidised LPG cylinders in a year. Further, 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) is currently in operation and under the scheme, the security deposit for the domestic LPG cylinder and cost of pressure regulator are provided by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through a fund created by contribution of 20% of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds of ONGC, OIL, GAIL, BPCL, HPCL and IOC.

Under the scheme, the BPL card holders register with the distributor for a new LPG connection(s). The same is sent by distributor to local administration for authentication.

Intimation letters are sent to the BPL card holders after receipt of list authenticated by the administration.

As on 01.06.2014, OMCs have released 3,98,745 LPG connections under this scheme including 26,964 in Odisha.

(c) Government provides fiscal subsidy on Domestic LPG under the notified subsidy schemes. In addition to that, the OMCs also incur under-recovery on sale of subsidized domestic LPG as its price is being modulated by the Government in order to protect the consumers from impact of high international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions. For the month of August 2014, the total subsidy (Fiscal subsidy + Under recovery) borne by OMCs on each 14.2 Kg domestic LPG cylinder is ₹ 470.45 in Delhi.

The gross under-recovery incurred by the OMCs on sale of Diesel (in retail) PDS Kerosene and subsidized domestic LPG is being compensated through a Burden Sharing Mechanism, under which the Central Government, the upstream oil companies (OIL and ONGC) and the OMCs bear a part of the overall burden.

Development of tourism infrastructure in Bihar

*416. SHRI ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared any plan to develop tourism infrastructure in economically backward States like Bihar having abundant tourism potential, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during the last year and how many of them lodged complaints concerning murder, fraud, etc.; and

(c) the quantum of foreign exchange earned from tourism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The planning, development and implementation of tourism projects is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Ministry of Tourism (MoT) provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations including Bihar for tourism projects which are identified in consultation with them and funds released for projects that are complete as per scheme guidelines, subject to availability of funds and liquidation of pending utilization certificates against funds released earlier. MoT has sanctioned CFA amounting to ₹ 246.22 crore for 55 tourism projects during the Xth, XIth and XIIth Plan (upto 2013-14). MoT has prioritized following tourism projects for Bihar in the