

(b) and (c) A Study was conducted by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (R&D) during 2009-10 regarding suitability and evaluation of 10% ethanol blend on petrol vehicles for performance and material compatibility (metallic components). The following are the major observations :

- (i) No drivability problem was observed with the use of 10% EBP in any of the vehicles covered under the programme.
- (ii) the passenger cars had no starting problem with both the fuels *i.e.* normal petrol and 10% EBP at 5 deg C and 45 deg C.
- (iii) Used Engine oil sample analysis have not indicated any abnormal deterioration or wear of engine components.
- (iv) Visual inspection of the engine components has shown no significant change in cleanliness of the engine parts with use of 10% EBP.

#### **Import of Shale Gas**

360. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) what are the possibilities of importing shale gas from USA and other countries;
- (b) whether Government is working to explore shale gas in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details of the present status and future plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Indian oil and gas companies are continuously looking for opportunities abroad for tying up equity oil and gas, including shale gas acreages, and/or importing hydrocarbons, including LNG.

GAIL has taken 20% participating interest in a shale gas asset in the Eagle Ford basin in United States of America (USA). Currently, the gas production from these acreages is being sold in local market. GAIL has contracted 5.8 MMTPA of LNG from USA and deliveries will commence from the last quarter of 2017.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) has acquired 10% interest in integrated (upstream and LNG) Pacific North West LNG project in British Columbia, Canada. The project will produce natural gas from its shale gas acreages. IOCL's share of 1.20 MMTPA of LNG is slated for supply from 2019 onwards.

(b) The Government has, on 14.10.2013, notified the policy guidelines for exploration and exploitation of shale gas and oil by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in their onland PEL (Petroleum Exploration Lease)/PML (Petroleum Mining Lease) blocks awarded under the nomination regimes.

As per the policy, the NOCs will undertake a mandatory minimum work programme in a fixed time frame for shale gas and oil exploration and exploitation, so that there is optimum accretion and development of shale gas and oil resources.

(c) Under the first phase of assessment of shale gas and oil, exploration and exploitation at present, 56 PEL/PML blocks (ONGC 50, and OIL-6) have been indentified by NOCs. These blocks are located in the states of Assam (7 blocks), Arunachal Pradesh (1 Block), Gujarat (28 blocks), Rajasthan (1 Block), Andhra Pradesh (10 blocks) and Tamil Nadu (9 blocks).

ONGC has drilled one well where coring has been completed. In addition, ONGC has collected cores from another 7 wells.

#### **Marketing Margin of Natural Gas and LPG**

361. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board will decide marketing margin of natural gas and LPG levied by private sector natural gas marketers; and

(b) the action taken by the Ministry as on date on representation of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on issue of marketing margin levied by private sector natural gas marketers and by when the Ministry would respond to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRAPRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has decided that Government needs to regulate the marketing margin for supply of domestic gas to Urea and LPG producers, as the same has implication on Government subsidy outgo. In all other cases the marketing margin should be decided by buyer and seller mutually and any complaints about exercise of monopoly power should be addressed by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and/or the Competition Commission. Accordingly, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* letter dated 21.11.2013, has requested PNGRB to determine the marketing margin for supply of domestic gas to Urea and LPG producers, through its independent process. The PNGRB has intimated that the entire study on determination of marketing margin is expected to be completed by December, 2014.

#### **Shortage of LPG cylinders in West Bengal**

362. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the company-wise and district-wise number of bottling plants of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in West Bengal;