

Setting up of National Data Repository

3803. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country is in the process of setting up a National Data Repository (NDR) centre as part of making hydrocarbons prospecting more flexible;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Centre would have legacy data dating back to 1947; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated the process of setting up a National Data Repository (NDR) at Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) office, NOIDA for centralized storage and upkeep of Exploration and Production data of the country. NDR is expected to store and maintain hydrocarbon exploration & production data in a safe and reusable manner, in perpetuity.

(c) and (d) The NDR would be capable of loading legacy data which are in readable formats and can be digitized. Exploration & Production data obtained from National Oil Companies and available with DGH will be uploaded and stored in the NDR.

Black marketing and artificial shortage of LPG

†3804. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware about the black marketing and artificial shortage of domestic LPG in the country particularly in the rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to tackle the problem of black marketing and artificial shortage of domestic LPG; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) 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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.