

General marketing scheme for setting up LPG distributorship

3809. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the general marketing scheme for setting up of LPG distributorship at various places in rural and urban areas has not been finalized;
- (b) if so, the reasons for delay; and
- (c) the number of places identified under this scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The appointment of LPG distributorship is a continuous process. Locations for setting up LPG distributorships are identified based on available refill sale potential that can sustain economically viable operation of an LPG distributorship. The refill sale potential is based on several factors including population, population growth rate and economic prosperity of the area.

During the last three years, *i.e.* for the years 2011-2014, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have advertised 4943 no. of locations for appointment of Regular LPG distributorships and 6108 for Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaraks (RGGLVs) in the Country.

Setting up of National Gas Grid

3810. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to set up a National Gas Grid on the lines of Power Grid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the benefits likely to be accrued by setting up of such a grid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In order to transport gas to different parts of the country, there is need to expand the gas pipeline infrastructure. Government has set up the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the PNGRB Act, 2006 as a regulatory body to plan, authorize and monitor the development of pipeline infrastructure in the country. Establishing a National Gas Grid has been identified as a priority area by the Government. Presently the country is having 15,340 km of natural gas pipeline infrastructure and establishment of a national gas grid would require commissioning of additional about 15,000 km of pipelines. PNGRB has been requested to prepare a road map for development of the gas grid.