

**Shortage of cooking gas during winter in Uttarakhand**

†1998. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortage of cooking gas during winter in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, whether this shortage has increased as a result of reduction in quarterly quota of kerosene in the State;

(c) if so, whether Government will ask the concerned Ministry to restore previously fixed quota of the State; and

(d) if not, the details of the manner in which Government will solve the problem of the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that presently there is no reported backlog in supply of LPG in the State of Uttarakhand. However, in case of backlog following steps are taken:

- Operate LPG bottling plants on Sundays and Holidays.
- Refill deliveries by the Distributors in extended Hours and on Sundays / Holidays.
- Alternative arrangement for supply if the main supply source is not able to operate due to reasons like bandh, strike etc.

(b) to (d) The Government has not reduced PDS SKO allocation to States/ Union Territories (UTs) for the year 2014-15 (upto 3rd quarter). PDS SKO allocation has been maintained on the same scale as the corresponding period for the year 2013-14. While the requests of various State Governments for enhancement of their SKO Quota have not been acceded to, the Government has, however, taken a considered decision to allow the States/ UTs to draw one month quota of PDS SKO at non-subsidized rates during each financial year *w.e.f.* 2012-13 for special needs.

**Fresh exploration licences under NELP**

1999. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no blocks have been offered for bidding or new areas brought in under exploration since New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP)-IX;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.