

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;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government proposes to resume giving fresh exploration licences and if so, under what regime;

(c) whether the regime has been finalized and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of provisions for pricing of oil and gas under the proposed new regime ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Yes Sir. Regime under which new blocks would be awarded is under consideration of the Government.

Laying gas pipelines in small cities

2000. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to lay gas pipe lines even in small cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the cities of Bihar included under this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The authorization for development of city or local natural gas distribution (CGD) network is granted by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), under the provisions of PNGRB Act, 2006 and Regulations notified thereunder. Depending upon the natural gas pipeline connectivity, natural gas availability and feasibility for grant of authorization to develop CGD networks, PNGRB includes the Geographical Areas (GAs) in a phased manner in different bidding rounds.

(c) PNGRB has envisaged a phased roll out plan for development of CGD network in the country, which includes 8 districts of Bihar namely Barh Bihar, Begusarai, Gaya, Gopalganj, Patna, Saran, Siwan and West Champaran.

Direction by SC to clear policy on gas pricing

2001. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court has directed Government to clear its policy regarding the gas prices; and