

(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

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) On 14.11.2014, the Solicitor General of India has submitted before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the Writ Petition No. 513 of 2013 titled Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and another *versus* Union of India and others that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has published a New Domestic Pricing Guidelines, 2014. Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted to place these guidelines on record within four weeks.

Decrease in net profit of Oil India Limited

2002. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sliding of crude puts squeeze on the bottom-line of domestic oil producers and refineries in the second quarter;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Oil India Limited saw its net profit slide 33 per cent in September quarter due to declining realization on each barrel which was amplified by a drop in output;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the net profit of Oil India Limited dropped to ₹608.3 crores from ₹903.7 crores in the previous corresponding period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) As a result of reduction in the net crude oil price realization, the net profit of Oil India Limited (OIL) has decreased by 33% to ₹608.33 crore in 2nd quarter of 2014-15 from ₹903.64 crore in 2nd quarter of 2013-14.

5 Kg. cylinders for subsidized cooking gas

2003. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to make the subsidized cooking gas cylinders affordable through 5 Kg. cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also fact that once the 5 Kg subsidized LPG gas cylinders becomes operational, Government will remove the subsidy component on the 14.2 Kg. cylinders?