

Ban on allotment of new gas connections

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

- (a) whether the allotment of new gas connections has been banned at present;
- (b) if so, whether Government would lift the ban from the allotment of new gas connections for those States wherein the quota of kerosene has been reduced; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Minimizing cases of arbitration

276. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) has approached Government for dealing with disputes with explorer to minimize incidence of arbitration cases;
- (b) if so, the details of views expressed by DGH in this regard;
- (c) the present details of cases of disputes with explorers pending with arbitrators; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to resolve such cases in a time-bound period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, DGH has submitted suggestion for improving the dispute resolution mechanism such as—encouraging Conciliation proceedings; examination by Multi Disciplinary Team and Executive Committee of DGH on potential litigations; timely appointment of arbitrators by the Government; appointing arbitrators having domain expertise; delegating powers to DGH to create its own panel of law firms/advocates; delegation of powers for fee approval to the Executive Committee of DGH; vetting of the proposals by Advisory Committee for referring the matters to Sole Expert/Conciliation.

(c) The details of cases of disputes with explorers pending with arbitrators are as under;