

Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana is in operation in the country including the State of West Bengal. As per the scheme, the security deposit (upto ₹ 1600/-) for one cylinder and Pressure Regulator is paid from the fund created for this purpose. As on 01.04.2015, OMCs have released 7753 new domestic LPG connections to BPL families from the CSR fund scheme in the State of West Bengal.

**Dismissal of contractual employees by IOC, Faridabad**

1174. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 150 contractual employees, working since more than 15 years have been dismissed recently from Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Faridabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry has conducted an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has reported that no contractual employees have been dismissed at IOCL, Faridabad. However, the work of environmental protection was outsourced to M/s Oynx Management Services on ARC basis for the period 1st February, 2012 to 31st March, 2015. On completion of the contract, fresh tenders were floated and M/s Daksh Facility Private Limited who was the successful bidder was awarded the same work for which they have engaged 64 of the workmen who were earlier working with M/s Oynx Management Services.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Variation in cost of gas**

1175. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of gas varies from plant to plant owing to differential rates at which imported LNG is contracted as well as the cost of transportation;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has approved a proposal to pool or average out prices of domestic natural gas and imported LNG used by fertilizer plants to make the cost of fuel uniform and affordable;

- (c) if so, the quantity of gas provided from domestic and imported resources;
- (d) the extent to which the gas pooling would help save subsidy and benefit the urea plants; and
- (e) the time by when the pooling mechanism will be made effective?

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

(b) The Government has approved the proposal for pooling of domestic gas with imported Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) to supply gas at a uniform delivered cost to all the grid connected fertilizer plants for production of urea.

(c) Domestic gas and imported RLNG will continue to be supplied to fertilizer units as per their existing contracts and additional volumes will be sourced from imported RLNG. The quantity of supply of domestic and imported RLNG may vary depending upon demand of individual fertilizer units and availability from upstream sources.

(d) It is estimated that the pooling proposal will lead to additional production of around 37.13 lakh MT of urea in existing fertilizer units over the next four years (2015-16 to 2018-19). This is expected to result in saving of ₹ 1550 crore of subsidy due to reduction in import.

(e) The pooling mechanism shall become effective after notification of Guidelines for Pooling of Gas for Fertilizer (Urea) sector in the Official Gazette.

#### **Extension of advertising patronage by OMCs**

1176. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have been extending advertising patronage and sponsorship for cultural, sports and athletic events;
- (b) whether in the wake of recent documents leak cases in the Ministry, Government has shortlisted around 50 newspapers and magazines chosen on credibility criteria for advertisements and sponsorships;
- (c) whether the State owned oil marketing firms have a combined public relations-spending budget of around ₹ 400 crore a year; 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.