

by entities themselves at the time of bidding, before the PNGRB. As per PNGRB, 1784851 number of PNG connections are targeted in the next two years by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) authorized entities. As per the information furnished by Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC), the number of households currently covered under PNG is 2938117, as on 30.06.2015.

(c) and (d) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) established under the PNGRB Act, 2006 grants authorization for City and Local Area Natural Gas Distribution Networks in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and the eligibility criteria specified in the PNGRB (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network) Regulations, 2008.

The entities authorized by the PNGRB set up CNG stations in their respective authorized Geographical Areas (GAs) depending upon technical feasibility and commercial viability.

PNGRB has envisaged a phased roll out plan for development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks in several Geographical Areas (GAs) in various States. GAs are included in bidding rounds in a phased manner depending on natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability and feasibility for grant of authorization to develop CGD networks. The number of CNG stations are decided by the authorized CGD entities depending upon technical feasibility and commercial viability.

The number of vehicles using CNG depends upon legal framework, technological advancements, comparative economy of fuel to the consumer etc.

#### **Indigenisation of oil and gas exploration**

1884. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted a Steering Committee as part of the 'Make in India' initiative to recommend ways to indigenize the complex oil and gas exploration work undertaken by upstream companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee will suggest changes in the public procurement norms to mandate aggregation of requirement and local context as procurement criteria and prepare a blue print for setting up dedicated manufacturing zone catering to oil/gas field service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has constituted a Steering Committee comprising of the members drawn from the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Commerce, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, various Oil PSUs and representatives from FICCI, CII and AOGO. The actionable areas identified by the Steering Committee in short term (one year) and medium term (three years) include:

- (a) Suitable amendments in the public procurement norms to mandate aggregation of requirement and local content as procurement criteria as a short term initiative.
- (b) A target of indigenisation of 50% in the upstream sector in the medium term
- (c) Setting up of dedicated manufacturing zones/clusters catering to Oil field services such as ship building, offshore platforms and rigs in the medium term.

#### **Laying of CNG pipelines along NHs**

†1885. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to lay down CNG pipelines along the National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such National Highways of the States where laying of pipelines has been decided;

(c) whether the Ministry would plan to lay down the CNG pipelines along the State Highways also in order to reduce the pollution caused due to diesel in the country; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) established under the PNGRB Act, 2006 grants authorization for City and Local Area Natural Gas Distribution Networks in accordance with the provisions of the said Act and the eligibility criteria specified in the PNGRB (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Network) Regulations, 2008.

CNG is the compressed form of natural gas and is fed to CNG dispensing units by employing compressors on the natural gas pipelines.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.