

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.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.

Surrender of LPG subsidy

1886. SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over one million consumers have agreed to surrender their LPG subsidy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are around 15.13 crore consumers registered with the three companies, Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum which incurs at total subsidy cost of ₹ 40,000 crore on providing 12 LPG cylinders per year to each consumer; and

(c) whether Government is hoping to persuade at least 1 crore consumers to give up their gas subsidy soon and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As on 30.07.2015, total 14,62,729 consumers have voluntarily given up/surrendered subsidy on LPG.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that as on 30.07.2015, there are 15.64 crore active domestic LPG customers. The total outgo/expenditure on LPG subsidy for domestic customers for the year 2014-15 was ₹ 40591 crore (including subsidy under DBTL). The OMCs have launched a publicity campaign to motivate those who can afford to give up their subsidy in large numbers.

Portability of gas agencies

†1887. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has started a new policy under which LPG consumers will be able to transfer their connection to any agency of their choice free of cost, if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.