

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with Pan IIT to increase the exploration of alternative sources of hydrocarbons and energy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the procedure to be adopted for executing this Memorandum of Understanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Pan-IIT has signed a Memorandum of Collaboration (MoC) on 19th January, 2015 at New Delhi to work towards a collective R and D Programme for developing indigenous technologies to enhance exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons and alternate sources of energy. Under the MoC, ONGC's R and D Institutes and the IITs shall jointly undertake advanced research and development projects for the Exploration and Production (E and P) sector of the country in general and oilfield specific activities of ONGC in particular. The MoC also envisages promoting internships, visiting and adjunct faculty programmes, research oriented career programmes through an ONGC Scholar Programme. Within the ambit of this collaboration, ONGC will make its laboratories available to the students and research scholars of IITs. Also, ONGC geoscientists and engineers will have the opportunity of working with IITs.

As per MoC, for the smooth functioning of the collaborative research programme, Director, IIT Kharagpur is the Coordinating Director representing Pan-IIT Forum and Director (Exploration), ONGC will be the Coordinating Director representing ONGC.

For smooth steering of the programme and overall guidance and monitoring of progress, a two-tier mechanism has been envisaged comprising of (a) Programme Advisory Committee(PAC), the apex body to review the activities and approve annual budget and recommend Corpus Fund etc. and (b) Thematic Research Committee(TRC), the nodal body for all research related activities in respective thematic areas.

LPG connections

278. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the State/Union Territory-wise number of LPG connections in various States in each of the last three years and in the current year along with the number of pending applications;

(b) the State/Union Territory-wise details of the consumption and requirement

of LPG for both domestic and commercial purposes during the said period;

(c) the details of the LPG obtained domestically and LPG imported along with the amount of subsidy provided by Government during the said period; and

(d) the steps taken to increase supply of LPG cylinders in the country particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise number of registered domestic LPG consumers as on 1st April of the last three years and the consumers as on 01.07.2015 along with details of waiting list for new connection as on 01.07.2015, are given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) The State/Union Territory-wise details of packed LPG sales for both domestic and non-domestic purposes in each of the last three years and in the current year (till June 2015) are given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The details of indigenous production and LPG imports during the last three years and current year (Apr.-June 2015) are as under :-

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Apr-Jun 15
Indigenous Production(TMT)	9824	10025	9720	2418
LPG imports (TMT)	5850	6094	8195	2017

The amount of total LPG subsidy provided during the last three years are as under :-

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Amount (in Crore)	41547	52231*	40591*

*Including subsidy under DBTL

(d) To expand LPG network in rural and underserved areas, Regular distributorships as well as RGGLVs are set up based on the available refill sale potential. As on 01.07.2015, total 4694 RGGLVs have been commissioned.

Further, to extend LPG coverage to the poorless privileged, a scheme for providing one time grant to BPL families in the rural areas for release of new LPG connection through Regular LPG distributors and Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaraks is in operation in the country. As per the scheme, the security deposit (upto ₹ 1600/-) for one cylinder and Pressure Regulator is paid from the fund created for this purpose.

Statement - I

State /Union Territory-wise number of registered domestic LPG consumers as on 1st April of the last three years and the consumers as on 01.07.2015 along with details of waiting list for new connection as on 01.07.2015

State/UT	Registered domestic LPG consumers (in lakhs)				New Connection waiting list as on 01.07.2015 (in nos.)
	As on 01.07.2015	As on 01.04.2015	As on 01.04.2014	As on 01.04.2013	
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chandigarh	4.11	4.08	3.92	3.76	152
Delhi	62.13	61.46	59.13	54.23	6425
Haryana	54.40	53.11	49.40	45.14	12268
Himachal Pradesh	19.42	19.16	17.58	16.58	718
Jammu and Kashmir	22.04	21.75	20.00	17.96	17346
Punjab	76.74	75.49	68.26	62.39	8956
Rajasthan	90.79	88.13	79.05	69.88	15579
Uttar Pradesh	218.06	214.48	192.18	165.94	85612
Uttarakhand	29.08	24.33	22.90	21.56	3997
SUB TOTAL NORTH	576.78	561.99	512.41	457.43	1510531
Andaman and Nicobar	0.88	0.86	0.82	0.68	3
Arunachal Pradesh	2.51	2.44	2.24	2.03	56
Assam	35.98	34.98	31.51	27.72	2166
Bihar	66.35	63.80	54.96	45.68	25993
Jharkhand	21.02	20.47	18.64	16.52	1159
Manipur	3.96	3.90	3.61	3.17	224
Meghalaya	1.92	1.89	1.80	1.76	55
Mizoram	2.98	2.93	2.79	2.65	71
Nagaland	2.37	2.33	2.21	2.02	40
Orissa	32.72	31.17	26.15	22.46	24350
Sikkim	1.61	1.58	1.36	1.26	1

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tripura	4.66	4.50	4.05	3.72	91
West Bengal	108.46	104.54	93.72	82.66	58062
SUB TOTAL EAST	285.41	275.40	243.85	212.33	112271
Chhattisgarh	20.88	20.08	17.29	15.17	1898
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.73	0.72	0.65	0.60	63
Daman and Diu	0.69	0.69	0.64	0.60	58
Goa	5.62	5.59	5.43	5.22	291
Gujarat	82.19	81.01	77.00	72.06	2387
Madhya Pradesh	79.22	77.34	70.04	61.96	9500
Maharashtra	221.95	217.93	203.08	187.43	19912
SUB TOTAL WEST	411.28	403.36	374.13	343.03	34109
Andhra Pradesh	120.17	118.15	187.83	171.26	12437
Karnataka	110.94	108.29	98.45	88.85	43732
Kerala	85.76	84.87	78.58	74.49	5759
Lakshadweep	0.05	0.05	0.03	0.02	0
Puducherry	3.77	3.74	3.67	3.55	197
Tamil Nadu	173.09	170.44	163.64	152.95	10956
Telangana	94.61	92.72	0.00	0.00	7261
SUB TOTAL SOUTH	588.40	578.26	532.20	491.11	80342
ALL INDIA	1861.9	1819.0	1662.6	1503.9	377775

Statement-II

State/Union Territory-wise details of packed LPG sales for both domestic and non-domestic purposes in each of the last three years and in the current year (till June 2015)

State/UT	Packed LPG sales of OMCs during the last three years and current year (in MTs)							
	Apr'15 - Jun'15		2014-15		2013-14		2012-13	
	Dom.	Non-Dom.	Dom.	Non-Dom.	Dom.	Non-Dom.	Dom.	Non-Dom.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chandigarh	4233	852	34577	5002	32494	5392	33510	5234
Delhi	90379	7696	694396	36333	658447	41507	661830	50683
Haryana	89168	6203	551599	28820	492918	32359	463610	37168
Himachal Pradesh	13204	2462	106531	11870	94638	11385	100217	10990
Jammu and Kashmir	30784	1004	157979	4089	143950	5112	136844	5090
Punjab	976'14	4828	700222	27171	628810	30045	616184	33819
Rajasthan	148408	8141	869018	39101	764986	40821	690808	43833
Uttar Pradesh	314556	9597	2073821	51622	1780979	54167	1580143	58833
Uttarakhand	23252	3073	196391	13054	182623	12882	176829	13788
SUB TOTAL NORTH	811658	43856	5384534	217062	4779845	233669	4459975	259438
Andaman and Nicobar	591	37	7381	498	6764	487	6443	384
Arunachal Pradesh	1220	40	15230	402	14137	401	13081	398
Assam	27010	997	260826	6172	231425	6624	204247	7427
Bihar	103043	2688	652937	10135	541613	9302	462571	9374
Jharkhand	25343	1604	175049	10043	149947	9741	137690	9832
Manipur	2029	41	22170	154	22829	89	19326	76
Meghalaya	1326	232	13806	2256	12880	2341	11617	2334
Mizoram	1723	18	20805	259	18345	210	19375	283
Nagaland	1463	54	16624	536	15373	588	15102	549
Odisha	48454	2037	248610	9198	206687	11019	187764	12590
Sikkim	855	80	10513	767	9770	803	9489	760

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tripura	2938	25	31344	223	28981	197	27103	264
West Bengal	154696	7058	994549	38988	868476	38715	784574	45492
SUB TOTAL EAST	370692	14912	2469843	79630	2127227	80518	1898382	89763
Chhattisgarh	26764	2007	165491	10392	143694	10600	136356	10004
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1496	905	6697	3797	5910	3734	5673	3110
Daman and Diu	1328	628	5627	2364	5186	2375	5440	2510
Goa	9786	2289	43055	9557	41195	9110	46355	8248
Gujarat	112546	10292	754749	52120	698173	52766	679579	57241
Madhya Pradesh	107569	5209	681982	22591	610734	25756	576185	28995
Maharashtra	428719	62524	1985979	223601	1843846	227650	1818743	217589
SUB TOTAL WEST	688208	83855	3643579	324422	3348738	331992	3268330	327697
Andhra Pradesh	148561	8454	789060	35145	1270814	77631	1269815	85257
Karnataka	181965	26870	1013083	123797	904265	126201	851593	131311
Kerala	108633	15876	625977	70699	578231	70676	568962	71669
Lakshadweep	57	0	244	3	238	0	195	0
Puducherry	5360	623	30617	3116	28100	3014	29431	3324
Tamil Nadu	213766	25567	1467111	153267	1373971	150009	1264818	157705
Telangana	105455	10191	616660	43951	0	0	0	0
SUB TOTAL SOUTH	763798	87581	4542752	429979	4155619	427531	3984814	449267
ALL INDIA	2634356	230203	16040709	1051093	14411429	1073709	13611502	1126165

Inquiry into espionage case

279. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has ordered for an independent inquiry to investigate the espionage issue brought to light in the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the action against Government officials, corporate companies involved in