

market price for the gas in the region. The pricing formula can be taken as the economically appropriate estimate of arms length competitive price for domestic gas. The gas pricing formula aims at striking a fine balance between the requirements of producing and consuming sectors.

Sale of bio-diesel to bulk customers

1398. DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has permitted the sale of bio-diesel to bulk consumers such as the railways, shipping and road transport corporations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that if each litre of diesel is blended with 5 per cent of bio-diesel then we would need 3.5 million tonnes of bio-diesel per year; and

(d) whether the current capacity of bio-diesel is of 1 million tonnes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government has issued notification on 10th August, 2015 to allow the sale of bio-diesel (B100) by private manufacturers to bulk consumers like Railways, State Transport Corporations and other bulk consumers.

(c) The consumption of diesel in the Country in 2014-15 was 69.4 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT), and considering 5 per cent bio-diesel blending on the entire diesel volume, bio-diesel requirement was around 3.5 MMT per year.

(d) As per indication given by bio-diesel Association of India (BDAI), the bio-diesel production capacity available in the country is around 1.2 Million Tonnes.

Introduction of transparent LPG gas cylinders

1399. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to introduce transparent LPG gas cylinders;

(b) if so, the details of the additional funds required to execute this program, the date by when this new program will be rolled out and other details; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to undertake a feasibility study on marketing of LPG in composite cylinders by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), a public tender has been invited for procurement of composite cylinders by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL). This pilot launch is proposed in two select markets of Ahmedabad and Pune. This launch is expected to commence in May, 2016.

DBT scheme for kerosene

1400. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on introducing LPG like Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme for Kerosene also, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when this system will be implemented and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has announced implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene *w.e.f.* 01.04.2016 in 33 districts identified by 9 State Governments namely, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Where the Scheme for direct transfer of subsidy is introduced, the consumer will pay the non-subsidized price of kerosene at the time of purchase. Subsequently, the amount of subsidy will be directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary. To avoid any inconvenience to the beneficiary during the initial purchase through payment of non-subsidized price, an initial amount of subsidy shall be credited to all eligible beneficiaries. As a part of this Scheme, implementing States will be given fiscal incentives equivalent to 75% of subsidy saved in the first two years, 50% of subsidy saved in third year and 25% of subsidy saved in 4th year.

The Ministry is also in touch with other States for them to join the DBTK Scheme.

Review of pilot project of DBT scheme for kerosene in Gujarat

1401. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has reviewed the pilot project of Direct Benefit Transfer scheme for kerosene conducted in Gujarat;