

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;