

- (b) if so, the details thereof and the key outcome/observations made in this regard;
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes to extend it to entire State from April 1, 2016; 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) The Government has decided to implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in kerosene *w.e.f.* 01.04.2016 in 33 districts identified by 9 State Governments including seven districts of Gujarat. Further, Ministry is in touch with all States including Gujarat to include more Districts in the DBTK scheme.

Statutory status to OISD

1402. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to give statutory status to Oil Industry Safety Directorate (OISD) and assign the role of safety regulator in the field of petroleum safety;
- (b) if so, whether it will not amount to clash of interests as the OISD consists of officers mostly from PSU oil companies;
- (c) whether it will not negate the role of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) which is statutory and third party regulator in the field of safety; and
- (d) what has been done by Government to strengthen the PESO as it is short of officers to check the petroleum safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

- (d) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has informed that a proposal for augmenting the strength of PESO has been sent to the Department of Expenditure for concurrence.

Identification of cities for CGD project

1403. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has identified more cities for the City Gas Distribution (CGD) project since 1st October, 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is considering any city in Tamil Nadu for the CGD project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In year 2007, Government has established Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) under the PNGRB Act, 2006. Under the Act, PNGRB grant authorization to the entities for developing a City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in the specified Geographical Area (GA) of the country through a bidding process. (PNGRB) has envisaged a phased roll out plan for development of CGD networks in several Geographical Areas (GAs) in various States. The GAs are included in bidding rounds in a phased manner depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability and feasibility for grant of authorization to develop CGD networks in the country. PNGRB has identified 34 GAs for which bids were invited on 1st October, 2015. The list of 34 GAs bid under the 6th round of CGD bidding is at the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) PNGRB has envisaged a phased roll out plan for development of CGD networks in the country depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu.

Statement

List of GAs covered under 6th round of CGD bidding

Sl.No	State/Union Territory	District (GA)
1.	Madhya Pradesh	Dhar
2.	Gujarat	Dahod
3.	Maharashtra	Ahmadnagar
4.	Gujarat	Banaskantha
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Saharanpur
6.	Uttar Pradesh	Raebareli
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Mainpuri
8.	Uttar Pradesh	Ramabai Nagar
9.	Karnataka	Chitradurga
10.	Haryana	Bhiwani

Sl.No	State/ Union Territory	District (GA)
11.	Maharashtra	Ratnagiri
12.	Gujarat	Amreli
13.	Punjab	Bhatinda
14.	Uttar Pradesh	Auraiya
15.	Gujarat	Patan
16.	Uttar Pradesh	Baghpat
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah
18.	Haryana	Yamunanagar
19.	Madhya Pradesh	Shahdol
20.	Karnataka	Gadag
21.	Madhya Pradesh	Jhabua
22.	Uttarakhand	Nainital
23.	Haryana	Rewari
24.	Goa	North Goa
25.	Madhya Pradesh	Datia
26.	Punjab	Rupnagar
27.	Punjab	Fatehgarh Sahib
28.	Gujarat	Dahej-Vagra Taluka
29.	Uttar Pradesh	Amethi
30.	Gujarat	Ahmedabad (excluding the area already authorized)
31.	Gujarat	Anand (excluding the area already authorized)
32.	Gujarat	Panchmahal
33.	Madhya Pradesh	Rewa
34.	Haryana	Rohtak

Note : No bid were received for GAs of Raebareli District, Mainpuri District, Chitradurga District, Bhiwani District, Auraiya District, Etawah District, Shahdol District, Gadag District, Jhabua District, Nainital District, Datia District and Rewa District.

Cooperation from Saudi Arabia in exploration of oil and hydrocarbons

1404. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought greater cooperation from Saudi Arabia in exploration and production of oil and other hydrocarbons to cater to its growing energy demands;