

**Gas facility to every citizen of the country**

†446. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it is resolved to provide gas facility to every citizen of the country through gas pipeline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time-limit has been set to provide every citizen of the country with this facility through gas pipeline and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) 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.

**Black-marketing of petroleum products in Indo-Nepal border**

447. PROF M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it acknowledges that black-marketing of petroleum products is being carried out on the India-Nepal border;

(b) if so, whether any actions are being taken to curb the illegal supply of petroleum products on the India-Nepal border; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) During the year 2015-16, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported the following two cases of alleged black marketing of petroleum products on Indo-Nepal Border:

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (i) FIR has been lodged against the dealer of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), M/s D.S. Fuel Center, Nathpur, District Araria, Bihar by SDO, Narpatganj, Araria on 16.12.2015 for illegal supply of petroleum products to Nepal.
- (ii) FIR has been lodged against the dealer of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), M/s Ragho Lal Palasia, District Araria, Bihar by SDO, Narpatganj, Araria on 16.12.2015 for illegal supply of petroleum products to Nepal.

In all cases of unauthorized supply of petroleum products, action is taken by the OMCs in coordination with the State level agencies and the district administration.

**New policy for purchase of crude oil by PSU oil companies**

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

- (a) whether public sector oil companies in the country are still following the age old policy to purchase crude oil from international market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government has recently taken a decision under which public sector petroleum companies would be free to purchase oil from foreign market and companies at their own will; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The policy for import of crude oil was approved by the Government in the year 1979. In 2001, the Government approved some amendments to the policy. Under this policy Oil PSUs import crude oil on Term and Spot basis. Around 80% of the crude oil import of Oil PSUs is on term basis and the balance 20% requirement is met through spot tenders. This policy ensured that collective energy needs of Oil PSUs are met over the years.

(c) and (d) The Government has decided that Oil PSUs may formulate policies for import of crude oil in their best commercial interest and in accordance with the extant guidelines of the Central Vigilance Commission etc.

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