

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS**New policy of allotment of LPG distribution license**

*227. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of existing policy of allotment of LPG distribution license;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government has unveiled a new policy in this regard;
- (c) if so, salient features of the new policy and how it is different from the existing one; and
- (d) how the new policy paves the way to have at least one distributorship in every block?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Recently, the selection guidelines for LPG distributorship were modified by notifying Unified Guidelines for Selection of all types of LPG distributorships of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Salient changes introduced through Unified Guidelines are as under:-

- (i) There will be four types of LPG distributorships, namely, Sheheri, Rurban, Gramin and Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak (DKV).
- (ii) Setting up of 'LPG Suvidha Kendra' in Durgam areas.
- (iii) Maximum age limit has been extended from 45 to 60 years.
- (iv) Educational qualification for all types of distributorships is made uniform and it will be 10th standard.
- (v) Provision for direct allotment of LPG distributorships to State Government agencies under 'DKV'.
- (vi) 33% reservation for women across all categories *i.e.* SC/ST/OBCs/General.
- (vii) Separate reservation of 3% for Divyang applicants across all categories *i.e.* SC/ST/OBCs/General.
- (viii) Computerised draw through online selection process for the Sheheri Vitraaks, Rurban and Rural (Gramin).

Details of the "Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG Distributorships" are available on the website <http://www.petroleum.nic.in>

(d) With a view to extend the coverage of LPG coverage to one distributorship in every block, provisions of Gramin Vitrak and Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak (DKV) have been made in Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG Distributorships, 2016. Gramin Vitrak will service the LPG customers of the specified rural area. Generally it will cover all villages falling within 15 km. from the boundary limits of the LPG Distributorship location and or the area specified by the respective OMCs. Further, DKV has been envisaged for difficult and special areas [like Hilly regions, Forests area, Tribal inhabited area, sparsely populated, disturbed area, islands, Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas], where setting up of Gramin and Rurban Vitrak are not feasible. They will service the LPG customers situated in such DKV areas as specified by the respective OMCs. Further, Government has also decided to establish 'LPG Suvidha Kendra' on need basis in the country. It will be on temporary basis and managed by an authorised person of the concerned 'Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak'.

Peace talks with Naga insurgent groups

*228. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the concrete steps Government has taken for talks with Naga insurgent groups for lasting peace in the region;
- (b) what is the current status of the peace talks with the insurgent outfits;
- (c) whether the 'Greater Nagaland' issue has been excluded in the peace talks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Naga tribes in the neighbouring States of Nagaland have been included in the peace negotiation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (e) Government of India has been in ceasefire agreements with NSCN/IM, NSCN/KN and NSCN/R. Government of India has been holding talks with the NSCN/IM which resulted in signing of a Framework Agreement on broad principles on 3rd August, 2015. There have been continuous talks with NSCN/IM since then to reach a final agreement. Government of India has been in consultation with all stakeholders including neighbouring States on the issue.

ONGC to carry out 2D seismic API

*229. SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ONGC proposes to carry out Acquisition, Processing