

interested parties to facilitate faster availability of packaged Kerosene in the market. States/UTs have also been requested to consider suitable steps for allowing marketing of non-PDS Kerosene in the region/areas under their control, in consonance with the Kerosene (Restriction on Use and Fixation of Ceiling Price) Amendment Order, 2015 issued by the Government of India. Some of the State Governments have already permitted existing Kerosene Wholesalers/Private Entities/Government Bodies to market non-PDS Kerosene.

OMCs have also hosted the revised procedure for sale of non-PDS Kerosene to parallel marketers on their Web Portal.

(c) OMCs have reported that they do not have any plans to appoint new Kerosene Wholesalers in the State of Odisha.

Appeal against decision of theft of gas in KG Basin

†755. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any company has appealed against the decision in the case of the theft of gas worth ₹ 30,000 crores from the Krishna-Godavari Basin;

(b) if so the names of the said company and directors, the details thereof;

(c) if not the amount retrieved, so far, by Government out of ₹ 30,000 crores value of gas stolen from Krishna Godavari basin, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) In the matter of dispute of gas migration from the ONGC's blocks KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML to the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) block in Krishna-Godavari Basin, the Justice A.P. Shah Committee had in its Report concluded *inter alia* that there has been unjust enrichment to the contractor of the block KG-DWN-98/3 due to production of the migrated gas from ONGC's blocks KG-DWN-98/2 and Godavari PML. Government after accepting the recommendations of the Committee, *vide* its notice dated 3rd November, 2016 directed RIL to remit an amount of USD 1,552,071,067 (computed provisionally) being net amount of restitution receivable along with interest upto 31.3.2016 and USD 174,905,120 towards the revised additional cumulative Profit Petroleum receivable upto 31.3.2016 to the Government within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice. RIL, on behalf of its JVs,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

viz, BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited and Niko Resources Limited, *vide* its Notice of Arbitration dated 11.11.2016 has invoked arbitration disputing the claim of the Government of unjust benefit and restitution claimed in the aforesaid Ministry's notice and nominated its arbitrator. The Government has also nominated as its arbitrator. The both arbitrators have agreed to nominate the third/presiding arbitrator. Now the Arbitral Tribunal is fully constituted.

Supply of natural gas

756. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received complaints from various sectors of the country regarding non-availability of natural gas, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the action taken by Government for adequate supply of natural gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There is a gap between the demand for natural gas and the domestic natural gas production. The domestic natural gas production is not sufficient to meet the total natural gas demand in the country and various natural gas consuming sectors keep approaching the Government for supply of domestic natural gas. The gap in demand and supply is met through import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to certain extent. However, the demand of LNG is price sensitive.

The Government has taken several steps to enhance domestic natural gas production through several policy initiatives which would improve adequate supply such as:-

- (i) Policy to grant relaxation, extension, and clarifications at development and production stage for early monetisation of hydrocarbon discoveries;
- (ii) Marginal Field Policy- Discovered Small Field Policy;
- (iii) Uniform Licensing Policy-Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy;
- (iv) Policy for Grant of Extension to small and medium sized discovered fields;
- (v) Policy for Marketing Freedom for Gas Produced from Deepwater and Ultra Deepwater areas etc.; and
- (vi) Policy on testing requirements for discoveries made under New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP) Blocks.

To incentivize gas production from difficult areas, Government has granted marketing, including pricing, freedom for the gas produced from difficult areas.