

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Requests have been received from individuals/organisations expressing their willingness to sponsor LPG connections to such families who are not having LPG connections and those who could not be covered under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are formulating detailed modalities to give effect to the intended objectives.

New licensing policy for oil and gas exploration

3156. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced new licensing policy for oil and gas exploration in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) the number and details of gas and oil fields explored in various parts of the country by private and multi-national companies as well as public sector oil companies during the last three years; and

(d) the details of steps taken so far by Government for bringing new technologies, investment in the field of oil and gas exploration in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has launched a new exploration and licensing regime to boost oil and gas exploration in the country and to reduce gestation period for exploration. The salient features of new Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP) can be brought out as under:—

- Single license for conventional and non-conventional hydrocarbons.
- Open Acreage Licensing Policy.
- Revenue Sharing Contract.
- Graded royalty rates for offshore area.
- The contractor will be free to sell the crude oil exclusively in domestic market through transparent bidding process on arms length basis.
- The contractor will have freedom for pricing and marketing of gas produced from these blocks on arms length basis.
- There is no levy of Cess on crude oil.

(c) During last three years Private/Joint Venture Companies made 39 discoveries under Production Sharing Contract regime in which Field Development Plan has been approved. In addition national oil companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited made 11 discoveries and Oil India Limited (OIL) made 23 discoveries in their nomination acreages in the various parts of the country.

(d) Exploration blocks are awarded through International Competitive Bidding process in a transparent manner based on the quantified Bid Evaluation Criteria. Investment decisions are taken by the contracts keeping in view the provisions in the Production Sharing Contract signed with the Government. Government has various policy and administrative initiatives to facilitate hydrocarbon exploration in the country. Some of the policy decisions taken by the Government in recent years to enhance Exploration and Production (E&P) activities can be brought out as:

- (i) Policy to grant relaxation, extension and classifications at development and production stage for early monetisation of hydrocarbon discoveries.
- (ii) Discovered Small Field Policy.
- (iii) Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy (HELP).
- (iv) Policy for Grant of Extension to small and medium sized discovered fields.

Policy for marketing freedom for gas produced from Deepwater and Ultra Deepwater areas.

Beneficiaries of PMUY in Bihar

3157. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in Bihar;

(b) whether any assessment has been done to see that the scheme is not manipulated and the benefit of the scheme reaches the intended beneficiaries; and

(c) what are the safeguards to plug loopholes in this scheme, if noticed any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) 24,56,985 LPG connections have been released in the State of Bihar under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as on 24.03.2017.

(b) and (c) Under PMUY, LPG connection is provided in the name of an adult woman of a BPL household whose name appears in SECC list and does not have LPG connection in her or in the name of other family members. In order to ensure