

1	2	3	4	5
West Bengal	50	100	125	64
SUB TOTAL EAST	335	546	446	140
Chhattisgarh	35	76	44	8
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	1	0
Goa	0	0	1	0
Gujarat	12	63	85	12
Madhya Pradesh	125	219	140	27
Maharashtra	80	206	154	61
SUB TOTAL WEST	252	564	425	108
Andhra Pradesh	47	20	91	27
Karnataka	90	120	117	52
Kerala	27	60	50	21
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	0	0	1	1
Tamil Nadu	50	86	51	79
Telangana	23	36	89	29
SUB TOTAL SOUTH	237	322	399	209
ALL INDIA	1316	2158	1984	741

#### **New LPG distributors**

3805. SHRI SHANKARBHAI N. VEGAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes for new LPG distributors in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Appointment of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and locations for setting up of LPG distributorships are identified based on refill sales potential that makes them economically viable. As on 01.03.2017, there are 18634 LPG distributors in the country.

OMCs have advertised for 1531 locations in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Punjab. 59 new distributorships under Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak (DKV) category have been sanctioned to Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands Governments on nomination basis. As on 27.03.2017, 1176 Letter of Intent (LoI) has been given to selected applicants and 777 new distributorships have been commissioned in the current financial year (2016-17).

#### Use of LNG as transport fuel

3806. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to use Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as transport fuel;
- (b) if so, what will be its cost; and
- (c) what other benefits of LNG as transport fuel are envisaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoP&NG) has taken an initiative to explore the possibility of using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) as a transportation fuel in Road sector. Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) along with M/s Tata Motors and Indian Oil Corporation Limited have carried out a test run of an LNG fuelled bus on November 8, 2016 in Trivandrum (Kerala). The project is at pilot stage and commencement of its commercial operation depends upon requisite clearances.

(b) The price of imported LNG in the country for the month of February, 2017 is in the range of US\$ 7.18/MMBTU to US\$ 9.51/MMBTU.

(c) There are various advantages of LNG over other automotive fuels in terms of:—

- (i) **Environment** – As India is now moving to Bharat VI environmental norms, LNG, as a fuel, already complies with Bharat VI norms. In terms of after treatment of flue gasses in vehicles, LNG engines need minimal expenditure by vehicle manufactures.
- (ii) **Safety** – LNG vehicle fuel tanks consist of two stainless steel tanks with vacuum insulation. This double-walled steel structure makes them considerably stronger than standard diesel fuel tanks. Fuel is also stored at considerably lower pressure as compared to CNG.