

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARAMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government of India has launched Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) under new oil and gas policy called Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) that is expected to open up 2.8 million square kilometres of sedimentary basins to exploration and production activities.

(b) and (c) India has about 3.14 million square kilometres of sedimentary area for oil and gas exploration. Out of which 1.5072 million square kilometre (*i.e.* 48%) area has been appraised. Government has started the National Seismic Programme (NSP) which aims to undertake an appraisal of sedimentary basins across India, especially where no/scanty data is available in order to have a better understanding of the hydrocarbon prospectivity. To supplement the data acquisition efforts, geo-scientific data is also acquired through Non Exclusive Multi-Client Surveys. Further, under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), which is part of Hydrocarbon Exploration Licensing Policy, contractor has the access to data round the year for assessment enabling them to propose area of their interest for bidding thereby bringing maximum area under exploration.

(d) and (e) Exploration and Production (E&P) operations in India have generated voluminous data in terms of geo-scientific surveys, exploratory and development drilling and well data along with other types of data. National Data Repository (NDR) has been setup at Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) to make the entire E&P data available for commercial exploitation, research & development and academic purpose. With the availability of data on National Data Repository (NDR), the contractor has access to data round the year for assessment enabling them to propose area of their interest for bidding.

#### **Cashless transaction at petrol pumps**

2047. SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cashless transactions at petrol pumps have nearly trebled from ₹ 150 crore per day to ₹ 400 crore per day;

(b) whether this was achieved through a three pronged strategy adopted to promote cashless transactions after demonetisation;

(c) whether altogether 86 per cent of the petrol pumps in the country now have infrastructure for digital payments;

(d) whether more than 35,000 consumer awareness camps have been held in all major regional languages across the country for the promotion of cashless transactions at petrol pumps; and

(a) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have informed that the cashless transactions at petrol pumps were in the range of ₹ 150 crore to ₹ 200 crore per day up to 31st October, 2016, which are currently in the range of ₹ 350 crore to ₹ 400 crore per day.

(b) Following measures have been taken to promote cashless transactions at retail outlets (ROs) of OMCs:

- (i) 0.75% cash incentive is being passed on to consumers on every digital transaction at retail outlets.
- (ii) Placement of infrastructure to facilitate credit card/debit card transactions at Retail Outlets.
- (iii) Introduction of payment wallets. At present, 90% Retail Outlets have atleast one wallet facility available.
- (iv) Customer awareness campaigns carried out at Retail Outlets.
- (v) Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) was waived off on fuel transactions made through debit Cards for merchants and customers.

(c) At present, about 85% of the ROs in the country have POS machines and 90% of the ROs have wallet facility in the country for digital payments.

(d) and (e) To promote cashless transactions, awareness standees were put up at 45,489 ROs, and campaigns with live demonstrations were conducted at 37,968 retail outlets of OMCs.

#### **Linking of aadhaar for LPG Subsidy**

†2048. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether linking of Aadhaar number has been made mandatory for availing subsidy on LPG for all LPG consumers under Direct Benefit Transfer of LPG (DBTL) Scheme, if so, details thereof and reasons therefor;

(b) State-wise total number of LPG consumers in the country and number of consumers whose Aadhaar number has been linked under DBTL;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.