

Steps to widen clean fuel coverage

2675. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN:

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to invest nearly ₹ 30,000 crores on creating import and distribution infrastructure for widening the clean fuel coverage in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to add 10,000 new LPG distributors;

(d) whether India is home to more than 24 crore households, of which about 10 crore still do not have access to LPG as cooking fuel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that two new LPG Import Terminals are under execution at Cochin and Haldiya to enhance the import capacity. As on 01.07.2017, OMCs are operating 189 Bottling Plants across the country with bottling capacity of 16,354 TMT and OMCs are undertaking capacity augmentation of existing Bottling Plants along with construction of 20 Green Field Bottling Plants.

Further, 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 commercially viable. As on 01.07.2017, there are 18950 LPG distributorship in the country. OMCs have recently advertised 2843 locations to set up new LPG distributorships (mostly in rural areas).

(d) and (e) As on 01.07.2017, there are 20.77 crore active LPG consumers in the country and the national LPG coverage is 75.5%. In order to provide clean cooking fuel to every poor household and expand the coverage of LPG especially in rural areas in the country, the Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) to provide 5 crore new LPG connections to the women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families over a period of three years starting from Financial Year 2016-17. More than 2.5 crore connections have been given under PMUY since the launch of the Scheme.