

Further, the eligibility criteria has also been relaxed for Kerosene Wholesalers in terms of Age, Qualifications, fund and size of godown, multiple dealership/distributorship norms etc., while applying for NDNE retailer. However, upon selection, such kerosene dealers will have to surrender their dealership prior to issuance of letter of appointment for LPG Distributorship.

Apart from the above, existing kerosene wholesalers of OMCs have also been allowed to apply for the selection of LPG distributorship who are operating as a sole proprietor and having average allocation of less than 75 KL of kerosene per month during the immediate preceding 12 months prior to the month of advertisement for selection of LPG distributors, and fulfilling common eligibility criteria under unified guidelines for selection of LPG distributorships. However, upon selection, such SKO dealers will have to surrender their SKO Dealership prior to issuance of letter of appointment for LPG Distributorship.

(d) OMCs have made an offer to SKO dealers in Delhi for appointment as NDNE and 5 kg FTL retailer or 5 kg point of sales on nomination basis subject to fulfilling the requisite criteria.

Daily fixation of retail prices of petrol and diesel

†2687. SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the matter of keeping the prices of petrol and diesel higher, in connivance with the oil companies of private sector, in daily fixation of retail prices of petrol and diesel has come across;

(b) the mechanism adopted to avoid such connivance with private oil companies; and

(c) how is it possible to fix the uniform rate of petro-products on daily basis without any connivance, the reasons for not having different prices thereof, so that consumers could buy those from the company having lowest rates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Prices of Petrol and Diesel have been made market-determined effective 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of Petrol and Diesel in line with international product prices and other market conditions. There is no connivance with the oil companies of private sector, in daily fixation of retail prices of petrol and diesel. The private

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

oil companies themselves decide the prices of petrol and diesel being sold from the Retail outlets run by them.

The Public Sector OMCs have majority market share in marketing of petroleum products in the country. Public Sector OMCs have implemented daily price revisions of Petrol and Diesel which would make the retail prices more reflective of the current market conditions, minimizing the volatility in the RSP of Petrol and Diesel. Further, it will lead to increased transparency in the system.

Public Sector OMCs have informed that they have established appropriate mechanism for conveying the prices to consumers every day, including daily updates at their websites, prominent displays of prices at the retail outlets, sending of price related SMS to toll free number, Mobile apps etc.

Exploration of oil and gas

†2688. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of regions where the work of exploration of crude oil and gas is being conducted in the country at present;

(b) whether Government is exploring these outside the country also, if so, the names of those countries;

(c) the places where wells of crude oil and gas have been found in the exploration in the country, and the possibility of quantity of their storage; and

(d) whether there is any possibility of tapping the reserves of oil and gas found by means of exploration by the private companies, if so, the reasons therefor along with names thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Exploration work for oil and gas is being carried out by National Oil Companies and Private and Joint Venture Companies under Nomination and Production Sharing Contract Regime in the States of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu along with offshore areas in east and west coast of the country.

(b) The Exploratory Blocks of Indian Oil PSUs are present in Vietnam, Myanmar, Mozambique, Libya, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Indonesia, Australia, Nigeria, Gabon, Yemen, Brazil, Iran, Iraq and East Timor.

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