

(c) In order to prevent such activities of militants, numerous steps have been taken including strengthening of operational grid with enhanced human intelligence and use of technical intelligence grid. Further, the intensity of Counter Insurgency operations have been increased, resulting in neutralization of several militants.

**LPG connections to Uttarakhand under PMUY**

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

(a) whether gas connections have been distributed to the BPL card holders under Prime Minister's ambitious Ujjwala Scheme in Uttarakhand;

(b) if so, the district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the amount spent on publicity of the Ujjwala Scheme so far, the details thereof from April, 2014 to April, 2017?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) LPG connections to the eligible women of BPL families under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) have been released across the country including the State of Uttarakhand. District-wise details of LPG connections released under PMUY in the State of Uttarakhand as on 14.07.2017 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) As per the PMUY Scheme, there is a provision for 2% expenditure for Information Education and Communication (IEC) and Project Management Expenses (PME) (which includes the cost of administration, evaluation, technology support, etc.) expenses. So far, since the launch of PMUY in May, 2016, Oil Marketing Companies have booked ₹ 55 crore towards IEC and PME expenses.

***Statement***

*District-wise details of PMUY connections released as on 14.07.2017  
in the State of Uttarakhand*

District	Connections released
Almora	6,273
Bageshwar	3,133
Chamoli	1,807
Champawat	1,869
Dehradun	13,761

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

District	Connections released
Garhwal	4,031
Haridwar	47,440
Nainital	9,648
Pithoragarh	3,187
Rudraprayag	731
Tehri Garhwal	6,685
Udham Singh Nagar	20,063
Uttarkashi	6,131
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,24,759</b>

#### **Auction process for fresh hydrocarbon fields**

436. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

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

(a) whether Government proposes to start auction process for fresh hydrocarbon fields, to augment capacity, in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it would be conventional and non-conventional oil and gas exploration, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how the contractors would be selected and on what basis the fields will be offered to them, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The auction process for fresh hydrocarbon fields under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) has been started. The recently launched Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) allows investors to view the data related to the sedimentary basins of India at the National Data Repository housed at the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. Based on the review of such data investors can carve out blocks of their choice and submit their Expression of Interest for either (i) Petroleum Operations Contract for Exploration, Appraisal, Development and Production or (ii) Reconnaissance for Exploration only. The contracts will be finalized through an open, transparent and competitive bidding process. The EoI will be accepted throughout the year in two windows. The deadline for submission of EoI for the first window would be 15th