

The total consumption and production of natural gas in the country during the last three financial years is given below:

| Year | Consumption Quantity (in MMSCM) | Production of Natural Gas (in MMSCM) |
|---------|------------------------------------|---|
| 2014-15 | 51238 | 32693 |
| 2015-16 | 52517 | 31129 |
| 2016-17 | 55534 | 30850 |

Aadhaar for receiving subsidised LPG

1889. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether Aadhaar is mandatory for receiving subsidised LPG;
- whether this has led to reduction in leakages leading to savings, if any, if so, the year-wise and State-wise details thereof; and
- the details of methodology used to assess reduction in leakages and calculate savings?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As per Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services Act, 2016), under Section 7 for use of Aadhaar, all LPG consumers are advised to link Aadhaar number to their LPG consumer number by 31.03.2018, except for the consumers based in the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Meghalaya. As on 29.12.2017, more than 19.41 crore LPG consumers have joined PAHAL Scheme and are directly getting LPG subsidy in their bank accounts.

(b) and (c) An intensive de-duplication exercise on *inter/intra* company basis was carried out for identifying duplicate/fake/ghost/inactive domestic LPG connections based on Aadhaar, Bank account, name and address by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs).

Estimated savings arising out of implementation of PAHAL scheme is as under:

| Year | Estimated savings |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2014-15 | 14,818.4 crore |
| 2015-16 | 6,443 crore |
| 2016-17 | 4,608 crore |
| 2017-18 (Apr.-Nov.) | 3,799 crore |

Estimated savings has been calculated by multiplying average subsidy per cylinder for that year with number of blocked customers and entitled numbers of subsidized domestic cylinders per annum *i.e.* 12.

Increase in domestic gas production

1890. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government's decision to double natural gas prices from April, 2014 was to incentivize domestic gas production;
- (b) if so, the year-wise increase in domestic gas production;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has implemented recommendations contained in the Rangarajan Committee to put in place a mechanism to make sure production costs are not unduly inflated by contractors;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (f) Based on the recommendations of Rangarajan Committee Report, Domestic Natural Gas Pricing Guidelines were notified in January, 2014 but due to announcement of General Elections, in March, 2014, implementation of these guidelines was deferred. A Committee of Secretaries comprising of Secretary (Power), Secretary (Expenditure), Secretary (Fertilizer) and Additional Secretary, MoP&NG was constituted in August, 2014 for a comprehensive re-examination of the whole issue of gas pricing. After consulting various stakeholders from the producing and consuming sectors, this Committee submitted its report in September, 2014. After considering the report of the said Committee, the Government issued New Domestic Natural Gas Pricing Guidelines, 2014 in October, 2014. This pricing mechanism is formula based and has been worked out considering the volumes and prices prevailing at major international markets such as Henry Hub, National Balancing Point, Alberta and Russia. The prices are revised after every 6 months in accordance with said guidelines. Further, to incentivise domestic production of natural gas, Government notified a policy in March, 2016 to grant marketing and pricing freedom with a price ceiling on gas produced from discoveries