

powers to Director General, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DG, DGH) under Production Sharing Contracts which include (a) allowing entry to next exploration phase pending resolution on amount payable for Unfinished Minimum Work Programme against submission of Bank Guarantee; (b) granting area extending beyond Contract Area for appraisal; (c) delegating powers to (DG, DGH) under Production Sharing Contracts.

(ii) Streamlining the working of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) in respect of Pre-NELP and NELP blocks for increasing domestic production of hydrocarbon resources which include (a) Sharing of Royalty and Cess in proportion to Participating Interest; (b) providing additional 2 years for Exploration activities and additional 1 year for appraisal activities in North Eastern Region; (c) Allowing extension of notice period from 7 days to 15 days in events of *force majeure*; and (d) Extending Tax benefits under section 42 of Income Tax Act, 1961.

(iii) Permitting exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons such as shale oil/gas, CBM under existing acreages of Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), Coal Bed Methane (CBM) contracts and Nomination fields.

License for bitumen dealership

2527. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is granting license to deserving applicants for bitumen dealers/suppliers;

(b) if so, what are the existing requirements for the bidders; and

(c) how many such applicants have been appointed/approved by the Ministry in the eight North Eastern States respectively?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas does not appoint or grant license to bitumen dealers/suppliers.

Providing clean fuel under PMUY

2528. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set any target under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala

Yojana (PMUY) to safeguard the health of women and children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel, LPG;

(b) if so, whether the said target is achieved by Government;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) if not, whether Government is taking any steps to create coordination between various Departments/Ministries including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for speedy completion of the target under the programme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) In order to provide clean cooking fuel LPG to poor households, especially in rural areas, the Government launched “Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)” in May, 2016 with the target to provide 5 crore LPG connections over a period of 3 years (2016-19) to the women belonging to poor households. The set target has been achieved 8 months ahead of the schedule. As on 3.8.2018, more than 5 crore LPG connections have been released under the PMUY. Further, in the Budget 2018-19, the target of the Scheme has been enhanced from 5 crore LPG connections to 8 crore LPG connections to be achieved by 2020.

(d) and (e) PMUY is implemented through the network of distributors of three Oil Marketing Companies *i.e.* Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

LPG distribution centres in Jammu and Kashmir

2529. SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how many LPG distribution centres are working in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, district/place and company-wise;

(b) whether Government has invited new applicants for the same;

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

(d) if not, whether Government will consider for the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) As on 01.07.2018, there are 258 LPG distributors in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Company-wise details are as under:—