

- (iii) Policy for Grant of Extension to small and medium sized discovered fields.
- (iv) Policy for Marketing and Pricing Freedom for Coal Bed Methane (CBM).
- (v) Government has granted marketing, including pricing, freedom for the gas produced from difficult areas.
- (vi) Marketing freedom has also been provided under Discovered Small Field bidding rounds as well as under Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).

Inquiry into fire incident at Hazira terminal of IOC

4277. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1673 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 2013 and state:

- (a) the updated status on inquiry conducted by Government for major fire incident that took place in oil storage tank of Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL) at Hazira;
- (b) what action has already been taken by Government against irresponsible officials of IOC for negligence of their duty; and
- (c) whether the Ministry is going to issue directives to Oil companies which are having storage tanks at Hazira to avoid such fire incidents?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) An Inter-Disciplinary Enquiry Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Executive Director, OISD to inquire into the incident. The Committee in its investigation Report, has made recommendations to prevent the recurrence of such incidents.

(b) Disciplinary action against 14 officers found responsible for the incident as per Company CDA Rules was initiated by IOC. Major penalty was inflicted on 4 officers. Minor penalty was inflicted on 9 officers. Recordable warning was issued to one officer.

(c) Government has issued directive to all Public Sector Oil Companies to review the safety and security measures at petroleum depots/terminals and take necessary corrective actions to enhance security and safety system.

PNG supply in Tamil Nadu

4278. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cities/areas/towns in the State of Tamil Nadu in which the Central Government proposes to introduce Piped Natural Gas (PNG) supply;

- (b) the details of the agencies that have been entrusted with this task; and
- (c) the details of amount/funds, if any earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has established Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) in the year 2007 under the PNGRB Act, 2006. PNGRB is the authority to grant authorization for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas (GAs). PNGRB authorizes entities to develop Natural Gas Distribution Network as per PNGRB Act, 2006 and the Regulations notified thereunder. PNGRB identifies the GAs for the development of CGD network depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability and techno-commercial feasibility. PNGRB grants authorizations for any CGD network through competitive bidding process.

PNGRB has webhosted a list of 86 Geographical Areas (GAs) for the development of city gas networks in 9th Round City Gas Distribution (CGD) bidding which includes following GAs in the State of Tamil Nadu:—

Sl. No.	Geographical Areas
1.	Kanchipuram District
2.	Chennai and Tiruvallur District
3.	Coimbatore District
4.	Cuddalore, Nagapatinam and Tiruvarur Districts
5.	Ramanathapuram District
6.	Salem District
7.	Tiruppur District

Diversion of LPG for commercial use

4279. PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) diverted for commercial use since 2014, year-wise;
- (b) the number of instances of LPG being diverted for commercial use since 2014, year-wise; and
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to prevent the diversion of LPG for commercial uses?