

- (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?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) After implementation of PAHAL Scheme, the LPG consumers, who joined the scheme, are getting the LPG cylinders at non-subsidised price and receive LPG subsidy (as per their entitlement) directly into their registered bank account. As on 09.03.2018, 20.01 crore consumers have joined the scheme and getting subsidy in their registered bank account eliminating the possibility of diversion of subsidy. However, there is a possibility of diversion of domestic LPG cylinders by unscrupulous elements due to the tax differential between LPG for domestic use and commercial LPG. Complaints of diversion are investigated by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) and if the complaint is established, action is taken and suitable penalties imposed as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement. The details of cases where diversion was established since 2014-15 to 2017-18 (upto Dec.) are as under:—

Year	No. of cases where diversion was established
2014-15	288
2015-16	300
2016-17	123
2017-18 (upto Dec.)	64

OMCs carry surprise inspections at distributors premises, conduct refill audits, surprise checks at customers premises, en-route checking of delivery vehicles etc. to prevent the diversion of domestic LPG.

#### **Details of skill development**

4280. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives taken up by Government to ensure seamless transition of educational hierarchy for students through primary, secondary and higher education and skill development;

(b) whether skill development trainers have been trained like teachers and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has taken any initiatives to ensure quality control of skill development programmes and the details thereof; and

(d) the State-wise list of the number of students who have received job placement opportunities through skill development, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI ANANTKUMAR HEGDE): (a) The Ministry