THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government of India has approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration & licensing Policy (HELP) on 10.3.2016. This new exploration policy provides a single license for exploration and exploitation of conventional as well as non-conventional hydrocarbon resources, like shale gas etc. With the operationalization of modalities of Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), the first round of seeking Expression of Interests (Eols) was opened from 1st July, 2017 to 15th November 2017. Based on Eols received, 55 blocks were carved out and put for bidding w.e.f. 19th January, 2018 for International Competitive Bidding process.

(b) Under first bid round of Hydrocarbon Exploration & Licensing Policy (HELP)/ Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP), 15 exploration blocks including 12 onshore and 3 shallow water are being offered in Gujarat.

(c) As informed by Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH), organic rich rocks are present in Cambay, Kutch and Saurashtra basins and they hold potential for exploration for shale oil/gas.

Fire fighting mechanism at petrol pumps

1381. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the mechanism to ensure availability of adequate fire fighting mechanism, including scheduled routine and surprise inspections, at petrol pumps in the country;

(b) the number of petrol pumps penalized for inadequate fire fighting mechanisms during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise along with the penal action taken thereon, case-wise; and

(c) the number of minor and major fire accidents that took place during the last three years, State-wise along with the damage details and action taken thereon, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) has informed that the licenses (including firefighting facilities) for retail outlets are issued as per the safety provisions stipulated under Petroleum Rules, 2002. The design &. layout of petrol pumps are approved according to Schedule IV of Petroleum Rules, 2002. The requirement of the firefighting facilities are elaborated in the conditions of the license

and the said Rules. During inspection, the availability of firefighting facilities as per Petroleum Rules, 2002 is verified.

PESO has also informed that the licenses for Auto LPG and CNG dispensing stations are also issued under Static & Mobile Pressure Vessels (Unfired) Rules, 2016 and Gas Cylinders Rules, 2016 in such petroleum dispensing stations. The firefighting facilities and design/layout of such premises are ensured according to the requirement of the respective Rules. PESO has further informed that during inspection, the facilities related to the firefighting mechanism are being verified along with other provisions of Petroleum Rules, 2002. PESO has carried out 9553 number of inspections at Retail Outlets (RO) across the country during the last three year.

(b) As informed by PESO, the details of number of petrol pumps penalized for inadequate firefighting mechanisms during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise along with the penal action taken, case-wise is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) As informed by PESO, the details of number of minor and major fire accidents which took place during the last three years, State-wise, along with damage details and action taken thereon, case-wise is given in the Statement-II.

Statement-I

Details of number of petrol pumps penalized for inadequate fire fighting mechanisms

State	Year	Show causes issued to Retail Outlets	Penal actions taken against Retail Outlets
1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	2015	15	6
	2016	06	04
	2017	03	04
Uttarakhand	2015	09	03
	2016	48	10
	2017	22	05
Chhattisgarh	2015	0	0
	2016	0	0
	2017	0	0

1	2	3	4
Rajasthan	2015	5	-
	2016	27	6
	2017	53	10
Odisha	2015	5	-
	2016	3	2
	2017	4	-
West Bengal	2015	87	4
	2016	48	0
	2017	158	1
Bihar	2015	05	0
	2016	01	0
	2017	01	0
Delhi and Haryana	2015	4	1
	2016	4	0
	2017	8	1
Gujarat	2015	4	-
	2016	3	-
	2017	3	1
Telangana	2015	1	-
	2016	20	6
	2017	12	3
Andhra Pradesh	2015	0	0
	2016	2	0
	2017	6	0
Maharashtra, Goa and	2015	5	1
Daman and Diu	2016	14	6
	2017	13	7

1	2	3	4
Kerala	2015	8	8
	2016	9	7
	2017	6	6
Karnataka	2015	01	-
	2016	03	01
	2017	04	-
Jharkhand	2015	0	0
	2016	1	1
	2017	0	0
North East States Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh	2015 2016 2017	2 10 16	2 10 16
Madhya Pradesh	2015	3	0
	2016	2	0
	2017	8	0
Tamil Nadu	2015	28	6
	2016	28	18
	2017	45	41
Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir	2015 2016 2017	6 12 9	0 0 02

Statement-II

State-wise details of minor and major fire accidents

State	Year	No. of minor or major fire accidents	No. of Casualties/ Damages/ Injuries	Action taken
1	2	3	4	5
Uttar Pradesh	2015	0	0	--
	2016	01	6 injured	Licence was suspended

1	2	3	4	5
	2017	02	2 injured	In one case license was suspended and in other case, operations has been stopped.
Uttarakhand	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	0	0	N.A.
Chhattisgarh	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	01	Causality - Nil, Injury - Nil, Damages- Multipurpose Dispensing units of MS and HSD got completely damage in fire accident.	License was suspended on 23.05.2017 and the suspension of the licence was revoked on 30.08.2017
Rajasthan	2015	01	Injured 01	Penal action - show cause notice issued
	2016	01	Injured 02	Penal action 1. Show cause notice issued 2. Show cause notice issued
	2017	03	Injured 01	P-128949 - Licence suspended. P-150074 - Licence suspended.
Odisha	2015	2	Injured 1, Killed Nil, Partial damage to the premises	1. Show Cause notice issued 2. Interim suspension

1	2	3	4	5
	2016	1	Injured 1, Killed Nil, Partial damage to the premises	Licence was suspended
	2017	1	Injured Nil, Killed Nil, Partial damage to the premises	Interim suspension
West Bengal	2015	0	0	
	2016	1	Injury Nil, Death 2	Interim suspension
	2017	1	Injury Nil, Death 2	Interim suspension on 20.6.2017. Suspension revoked on 19.1.2018.
Bihar	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	01	0	Final report submitted and tank lorry involved with the accident had been suspended
	2017	0	0	N.A.
Haryana/Delhi	2015	0	0	-
	2016	0	0	-
	2017	1	Killed 1, Injured 1	Licence suspended
Gujarat	2015	0	0	-
	2016	1	0	-
	2017	1	0	-
Telangana	2015	0	0	-
	2016	0	0	-
	2017	0	0	-

1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	0	0	N.A.
Maharashtra, Goa and Daman and Diu	2015	2	0	Show cause notice was issued. Remedial action has been taken and accordingly notice was revoked.
	2016	4	Injured 8, Killed 1	Licenses suspended.
	2017	3	Injured 5, Killed Nil	License suspended.
Kerala	2015	0	0	-
	2016	0	0	-
	2017	0	0	NA
Karnataka	2015	-	-	
	2016	02	01 (minor injury)	Penal action (show cause/suspension after inspection as per Petroleum Rules, 2002.
	2017	-	-	-
Jharkhand	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	0	0	N.A.
North East States	2015	0	0	N.A.
Assam,	2016	2	Injured 2	Interim suspension
Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh	2017	2	Injured 1	Interim suspension

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	01 minor accident case	Causalities - Nil, Injuries - Nil, Damages - One tank lorry damage	License suspended
Tamil Nadu	2015	0	0	N.A.
	2016	1	0	License suspended and the suspension was revoked on receipt of satisfactory compliance report from the licensee.
	2017	1	0	License suspended and the suspension was revoked on receipt of satisfactory compliance report from the licensee.
Punjab, Chandigarh,	2015	0	0	N.A.
Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir	2016	0	0	N.A.
	2017	2	4	License suspended

Surrender of subsidized LPG connections

1382. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether people from higher income groups and middle income groups have surrendered subsidized LPG connections in the country;