

- MSME Samadhaan portal to enable micro and small entrepreneurs to directly register their cases relating to delayed payments.
- SFURTI scheme of the Ministry of MSME to provide support to the artisans.
- Procurement and Marketing Support Scheme to enhance the marketability of products and services in the MSME sector.
- Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme (ESDP) to upgrade skills of prospective entrepreneurs, existing workforce and also develop skills of new workers and technicians of MSEs.
- Credit Guarantee Scheme for enhance the collateral free loan to MSEs.

Natural gas connections to households

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

- (a) whether there is any plan by Government to provide households natural gas connection in all the major cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the time limit and expenditure of the project; and
- (c) if not, the reasons for cosmopolitan cities not been provided with gas line?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the authority to grant authorization to the entities for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas (GAs) as per PNGRB Act, 2006. Providing PNG connections for domestic households is part of development of the CGD network which is being carried out by the authorized CGD entity in its authorized GA.

PNGRB has granted authorization for 84 GAs in 9th CGD Bidding Round. With the completion of 9th CGD Bidding Round, CGD would be accessible in 178 GAs covering approximately 280 districts (263 complete and 17 part) spread over 26 States and UTs.

(b) The authorized entity execute work as per their work plan for the GA. The expenditure varies as per the size of the GA and averages around ₹ 400 crore per district over the work plan period.

(c) PNGRB identifies the GAs for the development of CGD network depending on the natural gas pipeline connectivity/natural gas availability and techno-commercial viability.

Impact of US sanctions on oil imports from Iran

284. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) quantum of crude oil imported from Iran during last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon as compared to other Middle-Eastern countries;

(b) whether Government has asked refiners to prepare for a drastic reduction or zero imports of oil from Iran on the call by the US for curtailing trade ties/stop crude oil import from Iran and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government has asked refiners to find out alternative to oil from Iran and ensure energy security and also initiated negotiation with other countries for import of crude oil and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The details of quantum of crude oil (in MMT) imported from Iran and other Middle-East countries during 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18 is as below:

Country	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (MMT)
Iran	12.7	27.2	22.6
Total from Middle East countries	121.2	137.1	141.7

(b) Indian refineries import crude oil from diverse sources, including from Iran, depending on technical and commercial considerations. At a press conference on 5th November 2018, US Secretary of State announced exempting eight countries, including India, from US sanctions for importing crude oil from Iran.

(c) Indian Public Sector Refineries are diversifying their crude sources to strengthen India's energy security.

Differences in price of petrol/diesel sold to other countries

285. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government/Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are selling petrol and diesel at the rate less than half of the retail price in India to various countries, as per the RTI information;