

Year-wise details of targets fixed, achieved, fund allocated and fund utilised are as under:

Financial Year	Target	Connections released	Budget Estimates (₹ in crore)	Fund utilised (₹ in crore)
2016-17	2 crore	2 crore	2500	2500
2017-18	2 crore	1.56 crore	2251	2251
2018-19	2 crore	2.75 crore (up to 01.02.2019)	3200	3200
2019-20	2 crore			

(c) As per report of OMCs, there are a few cases of established irregularities in providing gas connections to poor households under PMUY. OMCs take punitive action as per the extant Marketing Discipline Guidelines and the Distributorship Agreement against LPG distributors in established cases of irregularities.

Status of National Gas Grid

413. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of National Gas Grid;
- (b) whether Government proposes to develop any additional kilometre to the National Grid to connect the eastern parts of the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has envisaged to develop the National Gas Grid. At present about 16,788 Km natural gas pipeline is operational and about 14,239 Km gas pipelines are being developed to increase the availability of natural gas across the country. These pipelines have been authorised by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and are at various stages of execution viz. Pre-Project activities/laying/testing/commissioning etc.

PNGRB has authorized GAIL to develop North East gas pipeline to develop approximately 750 km long Barauni-Guwahati pipeline as an integral part of Jagadishpur -Haldia -Bokaro Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL) project which will connect North East region with the National Gas Grid. Further, PNGRB has also authorized Indradhanush Gas Grid

Limited (IGGL), a joint venture company of five Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) *i.e.* IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NRL for the development of North East Gas Grid to connect eight States of North Eastern India.

Sale of petrol/diesel at reduced rates

414. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 285 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 2018 and state:

(a) whether Government proposes to sell petrol and diesel to our citizens at the rate which it is exporting to other countries *i.e.* between ₹30 to 37 only;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor along with the constraints therein?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Prices of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined by the Government with effect from 26.06.2010 and 19.10.2014 respectively. Since then, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) take appropriate decision on pricing of petrol and diesel in line with international product prices and other market conditions.

The domestic prices of petroleum products sold by OMCs are linked to the price of respective products in the international market. The retail selling price is inclusive of exchange rate, tax structure (Excise Duty and VAT), inland freight and other cost elements.

Natural gas production and import

415. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) how much natural gas is produced in the country and what is the consumption of such gas in the country for the last three years, the details thereof;

(b) how much natural gas is imported, the details thereof; and

(c) what step Government has taken for new gas discoveries in the country to avoid dependence on imported gas and the details of discoveries made by ONGC and OIL during the last three years?