

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has amended the definition of 'Petroleum' under clause (k) of Rule 3 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 and notified the same on 24.07.2018 to enable issuance of License/Lease for exploration/extraction/exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons. Generally, methods of extraction of shale gas or oil are horizontal drilling and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing. Any Exploration & Production (E&P) company, public or private, can undertake exploration of shale gas/oil as per the contractual terms and conditions. All contractors/operators are under legal obligation to obtain prior written clearance/approval of the concerned environmental authority before carrying out activities for exploration/exploitation of oil and gas. They are required to comply with various statutes such as the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986/Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980/Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 etc. while undertaking activities for exploration/exploitation of oil and gas.

**Capacity expansion of Numaligarh refinery, Assam**

1209. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has cleared the way for the expansion of capacity at Numaligarh refinery, Assam by 6 million tonnes to bridge the demand gap for petroleum products in the region;
- (b) whether plans are also on the anvil to raise the capacity of LPG bottling facility at the Bongaigaon refinery in Assam aimed at increasing the LPG availability in the region by over 4 times the present capacity; and
- (c) whether laying of new crude pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh will facilitate further capacity additions for petro products for refineries in the region?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Government has approved the project to expand capacity of Numaligarh Refinery from 3 to 9 MMTPA along with laying of a crude oil pipeline from Paradip to Numaligarh.

- (b) The Bottling capacity of Bongaigaon LPG Bottling plant has been augmented from 30 TMTA to 60 TMTA w.e.f. 02.07.2018 by operation of plant from single shift to two shift operations.

(c) The requirement of imported crude for Guwahati and Bongaigaon refineries has been considered in the design of Paradip-Numaligarh crude pipeline approved as part of NRL expansion project.

### **Linking of National Gas Grid to Rajasthan**

1210. SHRI NARAYAN LAL PANCHARIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any decision to develop National Gas Grid;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether gas producing areas in Rajasthan are proposed to be linked to National Gas Grid; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) 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 such as statutory clearances and acquisition of Right of Use under P&MP Act etc. and project implementation.

(c) and (d) To connect gas producing areas in Rajasthan with National Gas Grid, PNGRB has invited bids for development of 580 km. long Langtala-Jodhpur-Bhilwara Pipeline. This pipeline will connect RJ-ON/06 Block at Langtala with GAIL's existing Kota-Bhilwara which is already a part of gas grid.

### **Constant increase in price of LPG cylinders**

1211. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of increase in price of LPG cylinders both subsidised and non-subsidised since implementation of 5 per cent GST applicable on domestic LPG till date;