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Controlling increasing prices of LPG

1383. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of subsidized and non-subsidized LPG cylinders are increasing tremendously during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has made any mechanism to control the prices of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for subsidized domestic LPG. Prices of petroleum products in the country are linked to their respective product prices in the international market. As Government is modulating the retail price of subsidized domestic LPG, the subsidy on these products increase/decrease with the corresponding increase/decrease in the prices of these products in the international market. The subsidized and non-subsidized price of domestic LPG is ₹ 494.35 and ₹ 637.00/14.2 kg cylinder respectively (at Delhi market as on 01.07.2019). The applicable subsidy to consumer is ₹ 142.65/14.2 kg cylinder.

The price of domestic subsidized LPG and non-subsidized LPG at Delhi during the last two years is available at the website of IOCL *i.e.* www.iocl.com.

Goal for reducing crude oil imports

1384. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

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

- (a) whether Government has set the goal for reducing crude oil imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any five-year action plan for individual segments of Government has been set;

- (d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made for achieving it; and
- (e) by when Government would provide clean cooking fuel to all households, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) Ministry is working in collaboration with various Central Government Ministries to achieve the goal to reduce the dependency on import from oil and gas. The five-pronged strategy, in this context, broadly comprises of increasing domestic production of oil and gas, promoting energy efficiency and conservation measures, giving thrust on demand substitution, capitalizing untapped potential in biofuels and other alternate fuels/renewables and implementing measures for refinery process improvements.

Government has taken several steps to enhance exploration and production of oil and gas in the country which include; Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries, Discovered Small Field Policy, Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy, Policy for Extension of Production Sharing Contracts, Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane, Setting up of National Data Repository, Appraisal of Unappraised areas in Sedimentary Basins, Re-assessment of Hydrocarbon Resources, Policy framework to streamline the working of Production Sharing Contracts in Pre-NELP and NELP Blocks, Policy to Promote and Incentivize Enhanced Recovery Methods for Oil and Gas, Policy framework for exploration and exploitation of Unconventional Hydrocarbons under existing Production Sharing Contracts, Coal Bed Methane contracts and Nomination fields.

The Government in February, 2019 approved major reforms in exploration and licensing policy to enhance exploration activities, attract domestic and foreign investment in unexplored/unallocated areas of sedimentary basins and accelerate domestic production of oil and gas from existing fields. The policy reforms *inter alia* aims to boost exploration activities with greater weightage to work programme, simplified fiscal and contractual terms, bidding of exploration blocks under Category-II and III sedimentary basins without any production or revenue sharing to Government, early monetization of discoveries by extending fiscal incentives, incentivizing gas production including marketing and pricing freedom, induction of latest technology and capital, more functional freedom to National Oil Companies for collaboration and private sector participation for production enhancement methods in nomination fields, streamlining approval processes and promoting ease of doing business including electronic single window mechanism.

Government is also promoting the usage of environment friendly transportation fuel, *i.e.* CNG by expanding the coverage of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in the country. Government has also taken a number of initiatives to encourage the use of alternative fuels like ethanol and bio-diesel through Ethanol Blending in Petrol (EBP) Programme and Bio-diesel blending in diesel. To promote use of compressed bio gas. Government has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) on 01.10.2018. Government has also formulated a National Bio Fuel Policy 2018 to boost availability of biofuels in country.

(e) Currently, such poor households which don't have LPG connections are provided with the connection under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), subject to fulfilling terms and conditions of the scheme. So far, more than 7.29 crore connections are released against the target of 8 crore.

LPG connections to poor women under PMUY

†1385. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor women are unable to get free LPG connections provided under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the number of LPG connections provided so far along with the number of LPG connections yet to be provided under this scheme; and

(c) the target set by Government for the said scheme and time it will take for achieving the set target?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) under which deposit free connections are provided to poor families having no LPG connection subject to fulfilling other terms and conditions. As on 27.06.2019, more than 7.27 crore connections have been provided to poor families against the target of 8 crore connections.

Deduplication exercise by OMCs

1386. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when was deduplication exercise undertaken by OMCs;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.