

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.

(b) whether it is a fact that much time has passed and the need has come to have deduplication exercise since 2-3 OMCs have set up LPG distribution networks in one area which is hitting each other's business;

(c) whether it is a fact that in as many as 50 per cent of locations advertised in 2014 for LPG distributorship OMCs did not get any application; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to take to liberalize selection norms?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Before release of LPG connection, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) carry out robust de-duplication on Intra as well as Inter OMCs basis considering various parameters such as Aadhaar, Bank Account, Ration Card and Abridged Household List-Transaction Identification Number (AHL-TIN) (for PMUY) on real time basis. Further, with the assistance of NIC, de-duplication is carried out using parameters *i.e.* AHL-TIN (including validation), Ration Card, Same Name Same Address (Far and Near) and Different Name and Same Address (Far and Near). The de-duplication process has also evolved over the period of scheme implementation.

(b) Appointment of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and locations for setting up of LPG distributorships are identified based on sale potential that makes them commercially viable. Further, OMCs are under instructions to carry out Inter and Intra Company transfer of customers to make the distributors viable.

(c) OMCs have reported that, during 2013-14 and 2014-15, advertisements inviting applications for appointment of LPG distributors for 5831 locations were published and only in respect of 331 locations, no response was received.

(d) The Government has implemented Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG Distributorships from 2016 liberalising the following parameters:—

Sl. No.	Parameter	Previous guidelines	Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG Distributorships
1	2	3	4
(a)	Age Limit	Upper age limit 45 years (Except for Freedom Fighter (FF) category and SKO dealers)	Upper age limit of 60 years. (Except for FF category).

1	2	3	4
(b) Educational Qualification	Minimum qualification of Xth Standard or equivalent for RGGLV and Minimum qualification of Graduate or equivalent for Regular Distributorships (Except for FF)	Minimum qualification of Xth Standard or equivalent for all formats of distributorships (Except for FF).	
(c) Funds Requirement	₹ 10 lakh to 15 lakh for Regular Distributorships and ₹ 4 lakh for RGGLVs	Requirement of Funds is not an eligibility criterion.	
(d) Family Unit definition for Land Ownership	“Family Unit” includes parents and grandparents (both maternal and paternal) of the applicant.	Definition of family unit expanded to include parents (includes Step Father/Step Mother), Grand Parents (both maternal and paternal), Brother/Sister (including Step Brother and Step Sister), Son/Daughter (including Step Son/Step Daughter), Son-in-law/Daughter-in-law, of the applicant or the spouse (in case of married applicant).	

Refining capacity of oil refineries

1387. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of refining capacity of each oil refinery in the country;
- (b) whether the current refining capacity is adequate to meet the oil demand in the country and if not, whether Government plans to set up more refineries in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government is considering investing money to raise oil refining capacity in Maharashtra and other places of the country and if so, details thereof; and