

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 international market.

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

Free LPG connections by year 2022

†594. MS. SAROJPANDEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of poor families which will be provided LPG connections free of cost by the year 2022 as per the target set by Government in this regard; and

(b) if so, the quantum of financial budget that would be allocated by Government to complete the above task?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) 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. The Scheme is under implementation since 1st May, 2016. As on 20.06.2019, more than 7.23 crore connections have been provided to poor families against the target of 8 crore connections. Government has earmarked ₹12,800 crore for PMUY Scheme.

Inclusion of natural gas under GST ambit

595. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government is planning to include natural gas within the GST ambit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and the reasons why Government did not plan this sooner; and

(c) if so, which GST slab rate will include natural gas and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Article 279A (5) of the Constitution provides that Goods and Services Tax Council shall recommend the date on which goods and services tax shall be levied

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on petroleum crude, high speed diesel, motor spirit, natural gas and aviation turbine fuel. Thus while, petroleum products are constitutionally included under GST, the date and rate, on which GST shall be levied on such goods, shall be as per the decision of the GST Council. As per the section 9(2) of the CGST Act, inclusion of all excluded petroleum products, including petrol and diesel in GST will require recommendation of the GST Council.

Exploration of natural gas reserve

†596. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made for the exploration of natural gas reserves;
- (b) the names of Government and private companies engaged in the search/ exploration of potential natural gas reserves; and
- (c) the policy of Government regarding participation of the private companies in this field?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The policy initiatives taken by the Government to increase domestic production of oil and gas include:-

- (i) Policy for Relaxations, Extensions and Clarifications under Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime for early monetization of hydrocarbon discoveries
- (ii) New Domestic Natural Gas Pricing Guidelines-2014
- (iii) Marketing including pricing freedom on natural gas production under PSC regime from difficult areas such as High Pressure-High Temperature (HP-HT) reservoirs and deepwater and ultra deepwater areas
- (iv) Discovered Small Field Policy
- (v) Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy
- (vi) Policy for Extension of Production Sharing Contracts
- (vii) Policy for early monetization of Coal Bed Methane
- (viii) Setting up of National Data Repository
- (ix) Appraisal of Unappraised areas in Sedimentary Basins

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