

(e) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(f) whether the proposal of hydrocarbon wells would be reconsidered and shelved?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) ONGC has proposed thirty seven exploratory locations for drilling in Nagapattinam, Tiruvarur and Thanjavur districts of Cauvery Delta region of Tamil Nadu covering total land of 0.83 Square Kilometer.

(b) ONGC has received environmental clearance for fifteen locations.

(c) to (f) Fifteen exploratory locations fall under farm land. Some local people/ organizations have represented/expressed apprehension regarding possible environmental impact. Such issues are dealt with in consultation with authorities concerned and as per applicable laws, rules/regulations, guidelines etc.

#### **Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants**

1890. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Letter of Intent (LoI) issued by Ministry to potential entrepreneurs for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants in the country;

(b) whether financing from banks for setting up CBG plants was also assured to entrepreneurs under this initiative;

(c) whether Ministry has taken up issue of bank financing of CBG plants with Ministry of Finance as in absence of proper rating of this project, banks are reluctant to give finance; and

(d) whether Ministry would expedite the process of CBG so that plants are set up and vision of promoting biofuel is realised in true spirit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Under Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), Gail (India) Limited (GAIL) and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) have issued 443 numbers Letters of Intent as on 29.11.2019 for setting up Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plants in the country.

(b) Under this initiative entrepreneur is responsible for arranging finance for setting up CBG plants.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken up the issue of bank financing of CBG plants with Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India. Ministry has been reviewing progress of SATAT to facilitate setting of CBG plants.

### **Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in Andhra Pradesh**

1891. SHRJ V. VIJAYASAI REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has got the geographical areas as per PNGRB Act, 2006 to provide Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by IOCL so far to provide PNG to the households in the above districts?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Petroleum & Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the authority to grant authorization to the entities for the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network in Geographical Areas (GAs) as per PNGRB Act, 2006. PNGRB identifies GAs for authorizing the development of CGD network in synchronization with the development of natural gas pipeline connectivity and natural gas availability. PNGRB has authorized Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for development of CGD Networks in Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram Districts GA under 9th CGD Bidding Round.

As per Minimum Work Program submitted to PNGRB, the entity has committed to provide 9,29,842 PNG domestic connection to households and to set up 211 CNG stations over the work plan period.

As per CGD Authorization Regulation, authorized CGD entity is required to achieve of Gas Supply Agreement and Financial Closure, which was completed by IOCL on 08.08.2019. Further, IOCL has taken steps for setting up the hook-up facilities, construction of City Gate Station, designing of Networks etc. in order to provide PNG to households.