

- (b) the source-wise details thereof; and
- (c) whether it is sufficient to meet country's ethanol blending target of 10 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Government has notified the National Policy on Biofuels - 2018 which proposes an indicative target of 20 % blending of ethanol in petrol by year 2030. The policy lists potential domestic raw materials for ethanol production including Damaged Food Grains (DFG) like wheat, broken rice etc. which are unfit for human consumption, apart from sugarcane based raw materials.

In response to the ethanol procurement tender floated under Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme during Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2018-19 by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), ethanol suppliers contracted for supplying 16.78 crore litres from DFG route unfit for human consumption apart from other sugarcane based sources. For ESY 2018-19, OMCs contracted for procurement of 244.87 crore litres of ethanol from different sources for 10% blending in petrol out of which 9.32 crore litres are procured from DFG route for the ESY 2018-19.

Deadline for submission of oil/gas fields auction bids

2688. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has deferred for the second time, the deadline for submission of bids in the auction of 25 oil and gas fields that hold resources worth an estimated ₹1 lakh crore;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government has not yet fixed the revised date for submission of bids?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Twenty five contract areas covering fifty nine discovered oil and gas fields were offered under Discovered Small Field (DSF) Bid Round-II with

bid submission deadline as 18th December, 2018. However, after considering the request of various prospective bidders for more time for evaluation of fields and understanding e-bidding process, bid submission deadline was extended till 18th January, 2019. The bid submission deadline was again extended till 30th January, 2019 to provide ample time to prospective bidders to go through the modifications/ amendments made in Model Contract.

(c) The bid submission process under DSF Bid Round-II was completed on 30th January, 2019 and after due evaluation/approvals, twenty three Revenue Sharing Contracts were signed on 07th March, 2019 with successful bidders.

Permission to private companies to sell subsidized LPG

2689. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating on allowing private companies to sell subsidized LPG;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the process has already started, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted an Expert Committee to study issues related to parallel marketing system of LPG in the country also taking into consideration the existing structure of LPG marketing in the country. So far, four meetings of the Expert Committee have been held.

Provision of free cooking gas to BPL families

2690. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal/scheme to provide free cooking gas connection to the families in addition to Below Poverty Line (BPL) across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has identified the BPL families for the purpose of providing gas connection;