

country, the Government has envisaged developing the National Gas Grid. At present about 16,800 km natural gas pipeline is operational and 14,700 km of natural gas pipeline is under various stages of development.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. An interactive discussion with various stakeholders from Upstream, Midstream and Downstream segments have been held to *inter-alia* access the requirement of infrastructure to connect the supply centers to demand areas for natural gas.

Population provided with LPG connections

‡1566. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the population provided with LPG/cooking gas connection and target date by when the rest of the population shall be provided with LPG/cooking gas connection; and

(b) the subsidised price of gas provided to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and the reasons for increase in the prices of gas and the impact of this increase in the price of gas on the people belonging to Economically Weaker Sections of the society?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The release of LPG connections is a continuous process and LPG distributors are under instructions to immediately register any request for new LPG connection. OMCs endeavour to release the same within 7 working days as per eligibility and after following due process. As on 01.02.2020, national LPG coverage is 97.3%.

(b) The Government continues to modulate the effective price of Domestic LPG supplied to consumers. Domestic LPG prices are revised every month in line with international price of LPG with corresponding revision in monthly LPG subsidy under PAHAL Scheme. Applicable subsidy is transferred directly to the bank account of beneficiary upon purchase of refill at non-subsidised price and subsidy burden is borne by the Government.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.