

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The target to release 8 crore LPG connections under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has already been achieved on 7th September, 2019. Further, 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. The total number of household covered as on 01.03.2020 is 97.4%.

Streamlining grant of approvals for oil exploration

2057. SHRI DHARMAPURI SRINIVAS:

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up any Committee for streamlining and expediting grant of approvals/clearances for oil exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has made any recommendations, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for implementation of the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (d) A Committee headed by Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and comprising of Cabinet Secretary, Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Chairman and Managing Director of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation was constituted in October, 2018 for suggesting reforms in Exploration and Production (E&P) Sector to enhance domestic Oil and Gas Exploration and Production. The Committee, in its report *inter alia* recommended constitution of an Empowered Coordination Committee (ECC) under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary for streamlining and expediting grant of approval/clearances.

Empowered Coordination Committee (ECC) was constituted in May, 2019 under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, for considering matters relating to delay in granting various clearances, approvals etc. Three meetings of the Committee have been

held so far and issues related to delay/non-grant of Petroleum Exploration Licenses, environmental clearance issues and defence clearance issues have been taken up with other Ministries/departments and State Governments for expeditious resolution of the pending issues. Pursuant to the ECC meetings, following steps have been taken:-

- (i) Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) have been granted in all Blocks awarded under Open Acreage Licensing Policy Round-I in the States of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and some blocks of Arunachal Pradesh,
- (ii) Petroleum Mining Leases have been granted for many Discovered Small Fields and Nomination blocks in Assam, Tripura, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh,
- (iii) Ministry of Defence and Department of Space have agreed to grant additional area for exploration,
- (iv) Notification of Eco Sensitive Zone (ESZ) has already been issued around 16 protected areas.

Infrastructure projects undertaken by the Ministry

2058. LT. GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress of various ongoing projects of Government for better petroleum, oil and natural gas related infrastructure in various parts of the country; and

(b) the estimate of livelihood opportunities made available through new infrastructure projects implemented in this field, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Oil and Gas Central Public Sector Enterprises are undertaking large number of projects costing each worth ₹ 100 crore and above in various sectors which *inter alia* include exploration and production, gas pipelines infrastructure, city gas distribution networks, LNG terminals, capacity addition of refineries, petro-chemical projects. These projects in general make available employment opportunities in direct as well as indirect forms during the construction and operational phase.