

[22 April, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and IBP Co. Limited are operating in Gujarat to supply LPG to the consumers.

(b) At present, 508 LPG distributorships of OMCs are operating in Gujarat.

(c) and (d) At present, LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country including the State of Gujarat.

Objectives of PCRA

†3356. SHRI FAQIR CHAND MULLANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) when did PCRA came into existence alongwith the objective thereof;

(b) the savings made by the same in the field of petroleum-fuels and the scheme in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to enlarge the scope of PCRA keeping in view of rising prices of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Initially set up in 1976 as Petroleum Conservation Action Group, it was reconstituted in 1978 as Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA). Its basic objective is to formulate strategies and promote measures for the conservation of petroleum products.

(b) Annual savings through PCRA activities during the IXth plan period was 1217 thousand metric tones valued at Rs. 1119 crore through various sectoral programmes and mass awareness campaigns.

(c) The Government has all along accorded high priority to the conservation of petroleum products. In 2001 the Government passed Conservation Act which focuses on the Energy Efficiency Policies. It has also provided financial and other resources to PCRA for energy security and conservation efforts.

Availability of LPG in villages

†3357. SHRI FAQIR CHAND MULLANA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in India where LPG is yet to be made available;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) by when LPG would be available in all the villages alongwith the details of the scheme in this regard; and

(c) the reasons for not making LPG available in these villages till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) At present, LPG connections are released on demand in all the existing markets throughout the country by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). As on 1.1.2003, the percentage of population covered by LPG in the country is 36.6%. OMCs have plan to set up more than 1,200 LPG distributorships in rural areas. As on 1.1.2003, more than 400 distributorships are operating exclusively in rural areas. After commissioning of all the planned distributorships, it is expected that rural population will be adequately covered by LPG.

Shortage of LPG in Faridabad and Ghaziabad

3358. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for shortage of LPG in Faridabad and Ghaziabad for the last six months;

(b) the names of dealers of IOC, BPCL and HPCL who have delayed delivery of LPG to their customers beyond ten days during the last three months; and

(c) the details of the reasons ascertained by oil companies for the said delays and the steps taken/to be taken to normalize the situation in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) experienced low inventories of LPG at their various bottling plants in northern parts of country including Faridabad and Ghaziabad since November/December, 2002, mainly due to unplanned shutdown of Reliance refinery at Jamnagar, Gujarat, 'work to rule' agitation by Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) employees and transporters strike. Due to this, OMCs have reported the backlog of 3 to 9 days at certain LPG distributors during this period. Three distributors of IOCL in Faridabad also reported backlog of more than 10 days due to their own specific reasons. IOCL has suitably warned these distributors