

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:445

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2005

OPENING OF LPG AGENCIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND JHARKHAND

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to the policy of forest conservation and discouraging the use of wood there is acute shortage of fuel in the rural areas of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand ;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to open more LPG agencies for the supply of LPG in the rural areas of the said States ; and

(c) if so, the number of agencies proposed to be opened in the current financial year in these States, district-wise ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ ( SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR )

(a) : It is a basic objective of the National Forests Policy, 1988, to meet the requirements of fuel wood, fodder, minor forest produce and small timber of the rural and tribal populations.

(b) : LPG agencies are set up by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in accordance with their commercial considerations after assessing the viability of potential locations in different parts of the country. At present, LPG connections are available on demand throughout the country. OMCs have also taken innovative steps to increase the supply of LPG to rural and other low consumption areas, like the opening of community kitchens in villages, sale of 5 kg. cylinders for low income group customers and giving special attention to setting up LPG distributorships in rural / semi-urban areas.

(c) : The total number of LPG distributorships operating in Andhra Pradesh & Jharkhand as on 1.1.2005 is 759 & 136 respectively. During the current financial year 2004-05, OMCs have planned to set up 82 LPG distributors in Andhra Pradesh and 8 LPG distributors in Jharkhand.