

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6645
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2010
OPENING OF GAS AGENCY
Yadav Shri Ranjan Prasad

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

- (a) the criterion for allotment of gas agency in terms of population and distance;
- (b) whether it is fact that the residents/consumers of Masaurhi sub-division, Patna are attached with a gas agency situated at Jahanabad which is about 16 kms. from Masaurhi;
- (c) if so, whether there is any proposal to open an Indane LPG gas agency there;and
- (d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be opened ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIJITINPRASADA)

(a): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have freedom to set up LPG distributors as per their commercial consideration based on feasibility and economic viability of the locations as per their own guidelines, which are available on the websites of the concerned OMCs as well as at their Regional/State Offices.

A location is treated as feasible for appointing of a regular LPG distributor if it is found to be having a sales potential of 2500 refill per month in the defined area of operation for Urban distributor and within a radius of 15 kms. for Rural and Urban/Rural distributor. For Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitruk Yojana (RGGLVY), the location is treated as feasible if it having a sales potential of 600 refill per month in a cluster villages.

(b) to (d) : At present, the consumers of Masaurhi are catered to by an LPG distributor of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) located at Masaurhi whose customer strength is about 3000 with monthly refill sales of about 2000 cylinders and adequate refill slack is available to take care of the LPG requirements of Masaurhi. Before commissioning Of LPG distributor by BPCL at Masaurhi, the LPG customers were catered by IOC distributor which is situated at Jehanabad. Subsequent to the commissioning of BPCL's LPG distributor at Masaurhi, 355 customers of Masaurhi were transferred from IOC's distributor. However, around 480 customers are still catered by IOC's distributor as per the instructions of SDO, Masaurhi.

Advertisement for the locations under Marketing Plan 2008-10 for the State of Bihar has already been released and it does not include the location Masaurhi as it was not found feasible. Feasibility of locations is periodically carried out and the locations found feasible are included in the next Marketing Plan. LPG distributor shall be opened in Masaurhi only if the location is found feasible for the next Industry Marketing Plan.