

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:172

ANSWERED ON:05.08.2010

ALLOTMENT OF GAS AGENCIES AND RETAIL OUTLETS

Mohan Shri P. C.;Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao

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

- (a): the procedure laid down for allotment of retail outlets and gas agencies in the country;
- (b): the details of the retail outlets and gas agencies allotted during the last three years, State-wise;
- (c): whether complaints have been received in regard to irregular allotment retail outlets and gas agencies during the aforesaid period;
- (d): if so, the details thereof; and
- (e): the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 172 TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2010 REGARDING ALLOTMENT OF GAS AGENCIES AND RETAIL OUTLETS

(a) New retail outlets/ LPG distributorships are set up by Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs.), viz., Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPC) at identified locations based on surveys and feasibility studies. Locations found to be having sufficient potential and which are economically viable are rostered in the State-wise Marketing Plans for setting up retail outlets / LPG distributorships. Selection of RO dealership is done by independent selection committees consisting of senior officers of the concerned OMC. Out of 100 marks, 93 marks are awarded on verifiable objective criteria based on production of documents by the candidate, such as capability to provide land, infrastructure, finance, educational qualification, age, etc. and only 7 marks are awarded on subjective evaluation of candidates on personality and business ability. Regarding selection of LPG distributorships, recently the guidelines have been revised. Under the new guidelines selection would be done through draw of lots among eligible candidates who have the requisite land, finances, educational qualification etc. The new guidelines for LPG distributorship would be applicable for locations advertised after 25.06.2010.

(b): The retail outlets and LPG distributorships set up by OMCs during the last three years, state-wise are given in Annexure.

(c) to (e): During the last three years, OMCs have received 2118 and 1010 number of complaints regarding allegation of irregularities in selection of RO dealerships and LPG distributorships respectively throughout the country.

As per the grievance redressal system, each and every complaint is registered and examined by a senior officer appointed by the competent authority of OMCs. The complaints having prima-facie merit are investigated and complainants are advised to furnish material, if any, to substantiate their allegations. Complaints are disposed off by way of a speaking order and a copy of the same is given to all concerned. In case of established complaints action is taken by the OMCs which includes re-advertisement, re-interview, cancellation of selection process, initiation of disciplinary action against erring officials of the Corporation, etc.