

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:838

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

ALTERNATIVE COOKING FUELS

Bapurao Shri Khatgaonkar Patil Bhaskarrao;Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

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

- (a) whether nearly about 1,72,000 villages depend on forest wood for cooking as per estimate of Environment and Forest Ministry ;
- (b) if so, whether the Environment Ministry has come out strongly in favour of providing alternative cooking fuels to villagers living in and around forests ;
- (c) if so, whether the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has received any proposal in this regard ; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to provide subsidized fuels to the villagers living in and around forests ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a) to (d) : Yes, Madam. A reference from the Ministry of Environment & Forest was received for providing subsidized fuels to the villages in and around forests.

In accordance with Vision 2015, it is proposed to raise the LPG population coverage from 50% to 75% by releasing 5.5 crore new LPG connections between 2009 and 2015 especially in rural areas including villages in and around the forest areas.

In order to spread LPG distribution network in rural areas, including the villages in and around the forest areas, a new scheme namely, "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojana" (RGGLVY) for establishing small size LPG distribution agencies has been launched on 16.10.2009 and subsequently advertisement inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released in 26 States covering 3637 locations. Letter of Intent (LoI) has been issued for 989 locations out of which 512 distributors have already been commissioned.

The setting up of LPG distributors under this scheme will now be a continuous process till all parts of the country deficient in LPG are covered by LPG network.

Further, Kerosene (SKO) is one of the items distributed through Public Distribution System (PDS). Allocation of PDS SKO is made by the Government of India to different States/Union Territories (UTs) on a quarterly basis for distribution under PDS for cooking and illumination purpose only and further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs