

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:219

ANSWERED ON:19.11.2009

INCREASE IN LPG COVERAGE TO REMOTE AREAS

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

(a) whether the Government has laid down a road-map for the Oil Marketing Companies that would entail the release of 5.5 crore LPG connections by 2015 and will set up small LPG distribution agencies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also approved pilot projects for distributing kerosene and LPG through smart cards under the PDS to prevent diversion and leakages in the distribution network;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b): As per the "Vision-2015" adopted for LPG sector, 5.5 crore new LPG connections will be released by the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) by the year 2015 to raise LPG population coverage from 50% to 75%. The focus would be on areas where LPG coverage is low and the endeavor would be to have 100% LPG coverage for all towns with population greater than 5 lakhs in a phased manner.

In order to increase rural penetration and to cover remote as well as low potential areas for all the locations having potential of 600 or more refill sales per month, a new scheme of rural LPG distributor namely, "Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitrak Yojana (RGGLVY) for small size LPG distribution agencies has been launched on 16.10.2009. The advertisements inviting applications for distributors under the scheme have been released by OMCs in 8 States namely, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal covering 1215 locations.

(c) to (e) : With the objective of ensuring that the benefit of the subsidy reaches the targeted consumers and to check leakage in supply of PDS kerosene and domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), this Ministry has taken in principle decision to issue bio-metric Smart Cards to all users of PDS kerosene and domestic LPG customers beginning with some large cities. The pilot project on Smart Card has initially been proposed to be launched in Pune in Maharashtra, Bangluru in Karnataka and Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh. Modalities for launch of the scheme are being worked out by the OMCs. Depending upon the success of the pilot project, the scheme will be extended out to other parts of the country.