

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:39

ANSWERED ON:07.07.2014

SOLAR POWER BY OIL FIRMS

Mahadik Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao;Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Satav Shri Rajeev Shankarrao

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

- (a) whether the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) propose to set up/tap solar power for providing solar house lighting systems to the children for study without suffering from the heat and toxic fumes of kerosene lamps from their Corporate Social Responsibility Funds;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with concrete steps taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the districts with high consumption of kerosene for starting this project;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with steps taken/funds earmarked for the purpose and the time by which the said project is likely to be executed in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to bring down the kerosene consumption and reduce subsidy outgo through such projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) to (d) The Government has not received any proposal from Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up/tap solar power for providing solar house lighting systems to the children for study without suffering from the heat and toxic fumes of kerosene lamps. As per Census 2011, there are a number of districts across Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal etc. that have non-electrified households and are using kerosene as main source of lighting. List of top 100 affected districts is annexed.

(e) To minimize use of kerosene, Government has launched a programme 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojna' (RGGLVY) for small-size LPG distribution agencies in 2009 that focuses on raising the LPG population coverage in rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low. OMCS have commissioned 3037 LPG distributors as on 31.03.2014. Government of India allocates Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene to States/Union Territories (UTs) for cooking and lighting only. Further, distribution within the State/UTs through their PDS network to card holders as per their respective criteria, is the responsibility of the concerned States/UTs. In order to rationalise the distribution of PDS kerosene quota of the States/UTs, the broad principles that have been adopted to determine allocation include, inter alia, increase in LPG connections (in States where coverage was above national average) and restricting PDS kerosene allocation on a per annum per capita allocation basis for non-LPG population. To minimize use of kerosene, Government has launched a programme 'Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitaran Yojna' (RGGLVY) for small-size LPG distribution agencies in 2009 that focuses on raising the LPG population coverage in rural areas and areas where LPG coverage is low.