

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF  
SCHEDULED CASTES AND  
SCHEDULED TRIBES**

**(2022-2023)**

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**TWENTIETH REPORT**

**ON**

**Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**

**“Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/Units to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.”**

**Presented to Lok Sabha on 20.12.2022**

**Laid in Rajya Sabha on 20.12.2022**



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

**December, 2022 / Agrahayana, 1944 (Saka)**

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**COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES (2022-23)**

**Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki - Chairperson**

**MEMBERS - LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Girish Chandra
3. Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary
4. Shri Anil Firojiya
5. Shri Tapir Gao
6. Ms. Goddeti Madhavi
7. Smt. Pratima Mondal
8. Shri Ashok Mahadeorao Nete
9. Shri Vincent H. Pala
10. Shri Chhedi Paswan
11. Shri Prince Raj
12. Shri Andimuthu Raja
13. Shri Upendra Singh Rawat
14. Smt. Sandhya Ray
15. Shri Ajay Tamta
16. Shri Rebati Tripura
17. Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane
18. Shri Guman Singh Damor
19. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
20. Shri Jagannath Sarkar

**MEMBERS - RAJYA SABHA**

21. Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas
22. Shri Shamsheer Singh Dullo
23. Smt. Kanta Kardam
24. Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa
25. Shri Ram Shakal
26. Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki
27. Shri K. Somaprasad
28. Shri Pradeep Tamta
29. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa
30. Shri Ramkumar Verma

**SECRETARIAT**

- |    |                    |   |                   |
|----|--------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Shri D.R. Shekhar  | - | Joint Secretary   |
| 2. | Shri P.C. Choulda  | - | Director          |
| 3. | Shri V.K. Shailon  | - | Deputy Secretary  |
| 4. | Ms. Pooja Kirthwal | - | Committee Officer |

## **INTRODUCTION**

I, the Chairperson, Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes having been authorised by the Committee to finalise and submit the Report on their behalf, present this Twentieth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on the subject “Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/Units to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes” pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

2. The Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. The Committee wish to express their gratitude to the officers of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for placing before the Committee the material and information the Committee required in connection with the examination of the subject.

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee on 15.12.2022.

4. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations/recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in chapter II of the Report.

New Delhi;  
**December 2022**  
 Agrahayana , 1944(Saka)

**DR.(Prof.) KIRIT P. SOLANKI**  
**Chairperson,**  
**Committee on the Welfare of**  
**Scheduled Castes and**  
**Scheduled Tribes.**

## **CHAPTER –I**

### **REPORT**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai. BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer. BPCL, on a standalone basis, registered sales of 42.51 MMT and crude throughput of 30.07 MMT in the year 2021-22. Company recorded a Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹8,789 crore on a standalone basis.

##### **Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)**

Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is an Indian oil and as refining company headquartered in Mumbai. Since 2018, ONGC has owned a majority stake in the company. HPCL was conferred Maharatna status in 2019. It recorded Profit After Tax (PAT) of ₹10,664 crore in the year 2021-22.

##### **India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is a Central Public Sector Undertaking under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. Indian Oil recorded Revenue from Operations of ₹7,28,460 crores and a net profit of ₹24,184 crores for the financial year 2021-22 and is ranked 142 in Fortune-500 list. Indian Oil reaches precious petroleum fuels to every nook and corner of the country through its network of over 58,000 plus customer touch-points. The marketing network is bolstered by 70.05 MMTPA of Group Refining Capacity and more than 15,000 KM of cross-country pipelines.

The Parliamentary Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during its course of examination during the past 5 years observed that major issues cropping up w.r.t OMCs specifically Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) were primarily pertaining to low or nil representation of SCs/STs in Board of Directors, reservation in promotions and difficulties faced by poor SCs/STs in allotment of petrol pumps after change in policy/guidelines by OMCs in 2014. Similar issues were highlighted during the study visits of Committee while examining the said OMCs as well as resonated in the various representations received in the Branch. The Committee took cognizance of the matter and took up the subject *“Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/Units to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.”* with the objective to alleviate the problems being faced by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees working in these OMCs as well as poor SCs/STs persons who apply for the allotment of petrol pumps.

**(A) Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies.**

**Staff strength**

1. On being asked by the Committee about the staff strength and maintenance of prescribed reservation for SCs and STs, the Committee have been informed that the number of employees and the number of SC and ST employees as on 01.04.2022 in various Public oil Sector Companies viz., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) are as under:

**BPCL**

Category of posts	Total No. of Employees	Number of		Percentage of	
		SCs	STs	SCs	STs
<b>GROUP A</b>	5075	850	349	16.75%	6.88%
<b>GROUP B</b>	1413	199	53	14.08%	3.75%
<b>GROUP C</b>	1367	169	65	12.36%	4.75%
<b>GROUP D/D(S)</b>	690	114	54	16.52%	7.83%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8545</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>15.59%</b>	<b>6.10%</b>

**HPCL**

Company	Category of Post	Total Employees	SC	%	ST	%
HPCL	Group A (Management)	6018	992	16.48%	446	7.41%
	Group C (Non-Management)	3047	559	18.35%	289	9.48%
	Total	9065	1551	17.11%	735	8.11%

**IOCL**

Group	Total Emp.	SC	%	ST	%
<b>A</b>	18141	3089	17.0%	1350	7.4%
<b>B</b>	4711	753	16.0%	492	10.4%
<b>C</b>	8192	1490	18.2%	635	7.8%
<b>D</b>	360	60	16.7%	21	5.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31404</b>	<b>5392</b>	<b>17.2%</b>	<b>2498</b>	<b>8.0%</b>

**Direct Recruitment and Promotion**

2. On being enquired by the Committee, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in their written replies have provided data pertaining to the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees recruited and promoted among various categories of post during the past five years in Public Oil Sector Companies, company, post and year wise in various Public oil Sector Companies viz., Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) as under:

**BPCL**

RECRUITMENT IN LAST 5 YEARS						
Year	Category of posts	Total Recruited	No. of candidates appointed		Percentage of Candidate appointed	
			SC	ST	SC	ST
<b>2017</b>	A	425	79	38	18.6%	8.9%
	B	3	0	0	--	--
	C	78	5	4	6.4%	5.1%
	D/D-S	102	19	6	18.6%	5.9%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>7.9%</b>
<b>2018</b>	A	441	70	37	15.9%	8.4%
	B	1	0	0	--	--
	C	4	1	0	25.0%	0.0%
	D/D-S	61	11	0	18.0%	0.0%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>16.2%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>
<b>2019</b>	A	173	21	3	12.1%	1.7%
	B	1	0	0	--	--
	C	31	4	2	12.9%	6.5%
	D/D-S	130	14	1	10.8%	0.8%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>
<b>2020</b>	A	11	0	0	-	-
	B	NIL RECRUITMENT				
	C					
	D/D-S					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2021</b>	A	20	0	0		
	B	NIL RECRUITMENT				
	C					
	D/D-S					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2022 (till 01.04.2022)</b>	A	NIL				
	B					
	C					
	D/D-S					
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>NIL</b>				

PROMOTIONS IN LAST 5 YEARS						
Year	Category of Posts	Total No. of Employees Promoted	No. of employees		Percentage of	
			SCs	ST	SCs	ST
2017	To lowest rung of Group "A"	21	2	0	9.5	0
	Group "B"	97	5	0	5.15	0
	Group "C"	272	23	7	8.45	2.57
2018	To lowest rung of Group "A"	2	--	--	--	--
	Group "B"	50	8	--	16	--
	Group "C"	146	24	4	16.4	2.73
2019	To lowest rung of Group "A"	18*	2	1	11.11	5.55
	Group "B"	103	14	5	--	--
	Group "C"	45	7	--	--	--
2020	To lowest rung of Group "A"	--	--	--	--	--
	Group "B"	14	2	--	--	--
	Group "C"	189	13	1		
2021	To lowest rung of Group "A"	33	8	2	24	6
	Group "B"	NIL				
	Group "C"	NIL				
2022 till 01.04.22	To lowest rung of Group "A"	NIL				
	Group "B"	NIL				
	Group "C"	117	10	3	8.54	2.56

**HPCL**

Year	Total Recruitment in Management Category	SC recruited	ST recruited	Total Promotion in Management Category	SC promoted	ST promoted
2017	494	72 (14.57%)	31 (6.28%)	1040	182 (17.50%)	79 (7.60%)
2018	566	110 (19.43%)	38 (6.71%)	1021	172 (16.85%)	81 (7.93%)
2019	38	3 (7.89%)	0 (0.00%)	1061	178 (16.78%)	65 (6.13%)
2020	236	30 (12.71%)	11 (4.66%)	1131	170 (15.03%)	91 (8.05%)
2021	187	22 (11.76%)	11 (5.88%)	1294	232 (17.93%)	109 (8.42%)

Year	Total Recruitment in Non-Management Category	SC recruited	ST recruited	Total Promotion in Non-Management Category	SC promoted	ST promoted
2017	46	3 (6.52%)	0 (0.00%)	32	9 (28.13%)	1 (3.13%)
2018	127	27 (21.26%)	6 (4.72%)	89	12 (13.48%)	11 (12.36%)
2019	66	3 (4.55%)	6 (9.09%)	46	9 (19.57%)	4 (8.70%)
2020	49	3 (6.12%)	7 (14.29%)	29	4 (13.79%)	5 (17.24%)
2021	99	11 (11.11%)	10 (10.10%)	39	8 (20.51%)	2 (5.13%)

**IOCL**

Year	Groups	Number of appointments made during the calendar year					
		By Direct Recruitment			By Promotion		
		Total	SCs	STs	Total	SCs	STs
2021	A	1020	173	81	3571	377	177
	B	0	0	0	732	81	53
	C	407	61	35	2019	328	123
	D	24	3	3	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1451</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>6322</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>353</b>
2020	A	253	48	19	3837	634	278
	B	0	0	0	116	32	17
	C	83	14	9	1023	198	94
	D	13	2	2	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4976</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>389</b>
2019	A	961	143	69	3435	593	246
	B	0	0	0	428	87	41
	C	618	110	57	1014	222	59
	D	55	3	5	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1634</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>4877</b>	<b>902</b>	<b>346</b>
2018	A	1292	215	111	2656	442	186
	B	0	0	0	454	109	38
	C	479	68	59	1375	252	69
	D	182	37	5	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1953</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>4485</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>293</b>
2017	A	1291	211	113	3088	512	205
	B	0	0	0	461	82	40
	C	647	96	46	1726	341	122
	D	77	6	5	0	0	0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>5275</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>367</b>

**Backlog vacancies**

3. The Committee in a written questionnaire desired to be apprised regarding the figures of backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes as

on 01.04.2022 in various Public Sector Oil Companies category-wise separately. IT was further enquired about the reasons, if any, for the backlog and the details of the measures taken/ being taken by the Ministry/Oil Company to fill up the said backlog vacancies. In response thereto, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas furnished the details provided by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) as under:

### **BPCL**

#### RECRUITMENT ROSTER POSITION – AS ON 01.04.2022

Category of Posts	SC Backlog	ST Backlog
GROUP "A"	-3	-1
GROUP "B"	NIL	NIL
GROUP "C"	NIL	NIL
GROUP "D/D-S"	NIL	NIL

#### PROMOTION ROSTER POSITION – AS ON 01.04.2022

Category of Posts	SC Backlog	ST Backlog
To the lowest rung of GROUP "A"	NIL	NIL
GROUP "B"		
GROUP "C"		

### **HPCL**

It was informed that there are 7 Scheduled Tribes backlog vacancies in Group C, as required number of applicants could not qualify. The same is taken up during the current recruitment drive.

### **IOCL**

It was stated that the number of backlog vacancies as on 01.04.2022 across different groups is as under:

Group	SC	ST
A	21	24
B	No recruitment made in Group B	
C	6	5
D	3	2

It was further stated that despite best efforts, sometimes, few reserved vacancies remain unfilled in selection due to following reasons:

- Non-acceptance of offers of appointment by the candidates
- Few SC/ST candidates qualify on their own merit and therefore not adjusted against reserved vacancies etc.
- Required number of SC/ST candidates are not available

The vacancies reserved for SCs/STs, which are not filled, are carried forward as 'backlog vacancies' to subsequent recruitment year(s) as long as these are not filled by candidates belonging to respective category for which they are reserved. The above backlog vacancies could not be filled due to very few recruitment activities in 2020 & 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, continuous efforts are being made to fill up the backlog vacancies. Recruitment action is planned for recruitment of candidates in different groups in 2022 including the conduct of Special Recruitment Drive (SRD) to liquidate the backlogs to the extent feasible.

#### **Contractual appointments**

4. The Committee also desired to be made aware of whether SC/STs are provided reservation/representation for appointments being made on contractual/outsourced basis and details thereof during the last 5 years in the company post and year wise. The Committee further enquired as to whether the contractual/ outsourced employees are being provided adequate minimum wages, medical facilities, EPF and PPF facilities, etc. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in written reply has made following submissions in respect of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and India Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL):

#### **BPCL**

5. In BPCL, Contract labour are engaged through contractors for non – core, sporadic, peripheral nature of jobs and for project related jobs as per 'Contract for services. Their engagement, thus, is dynamic and keeps varying. The contract labour in BPCL are engaged primarily in the areas of Projects (Engineering projects, Civil works etc.), Maintenance jobs (Tank Repairs, Painting, Valve repairs, Heat exchangers, AC plants, Pumps, other equipment(s) etc.), & in other peripheral activities such as Security, Housekeeping, Catering services etc.

It was also informed that as Principal Employer all due measures to ensure coverage of contract labour under various statutes such as Employees Provident Fund & Misc. Provisions Act, Employees' State Insurance Act, Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act through their respective contractors. Internal statutory compliance checks are carried out from time to time across locations in Marketing and Refineries.

### **HPCL**

6. At HPCL, contract labourers are engaged through various contractors across India at various Corporation's locations in non-core activities, construction/project activities which are of a time bound nature, etc. Further, the Security and Surveillance is with CISF and few areas with Security Agencies of ex-servicemen registered with the Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR). Since, the contract labourers are engaged by the respective contractors, the Corporation is not required to interfere with their appointment neither maintain any details of number of SCs amongst the contract labour. Further, the Corporation doesn't specifically give any direction neither in the contract terms nor in the tender enquiries with regard to any reservation / preferential treatment to the workmen deployed by the contractor.

7. As a model employer, the Corporation ensures that all Labour related legislations viz. Contract Labour (R&A) Act, 1970, Factories Act, 1947, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, Payment of Wages Act, 1936, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 and social legislations viz. Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, ESIC Act, 1948, Employees' (Workmen's) Compensation Act, 1923 etc. are strictly complied with. In those cases, where the Contractor doesn't have their own PF/ESI code, benefit of PF/ESI are extended to contract labours through HPCL code. Further, Contractors are advised to take the group insurance where ESI is not applicable.

### **IOCL**

8. The Corporation does not hire employees on Contract basis. However, contract workers are engaged by the contractors within the provisions of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. Since, the contract labourers are engaged by the contractors, the information regarding number of SCs/STs amongst them is not maintained by us. The Corporation, as a Principal employer, ensures that payment of

correct wages as per the law, Provident Fund, ESI etc, of the contract workers deployed in its premises is deposited by the respective contractors.

**(B) Status of allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc.) and other related agencies/units to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."**

9. On a specific query raised by the committee, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in their written replies informed that Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had revised the Dealer Selection Guidelines w.e.f 21.05.2014. The major changes which took place with the implementation of 2014 guidelines are given below:

- In order to accommodate 27% reservation for OBC (as per ruling of Hon'ble Supreme Court), 27% reservation for OBC was introduced.
- The minimum age of an applicant as on date of application is 21 years. In the 2014 guidelines, the maximum age limit of an applicant as on the date of application was fixed at 55 years for locations other than Freedom Fighter (FF) category.
- Three tier selection through marks-based evaluation and interview was changed to selection through Draw of Lots & Bidding in 2014.
- Though applicants were assessed and marks were awarded based on finance, availability of finance was not a basic eligibility criterion prior to 2014. In the 2014 guidelines, availability of requisite finance was made an eligibility criterion for all categories excluding locations which were advertised under SC/ST category where financial assistance under Corpus Fund Scheme of OMCs continued to be provided.
- Offer of suitable land at advertised location which was not a basic eligibility criterion prior to 2014, was made an eligibility criterion for all categories including locations which were advertised under SC/ST category, since 2014. However, working capital loan and development of retail outlet at Public Sector OMC's cost on the land offered by applicants, for locations advertised under SC/ST category, continued to be provided under Corpus Fund Scheme.
- Provision to accommodate the spouse of the selected applicant as a 50% partner at LOI stage was incorporated since 2014, subject to condition that the spouse is already not gainfully employed and wish to be made a partner.

- Prior to 2014, payment of interest free refundable “Security deposit” was not applicable for Corpus Fund locations which also included locations advertised under SC/ST category. In the guidelines issued in 2014, payment of interest free refundable “Security deposit” (at the time of issuance of Letter of Appointment) amounting to Rs.50,000/- and Rs.5,00,000/- was made mandatory respectively for Rural & Regular ROs, irrespective of the category under which the location was advertised.
- While all selection related complaints were considered for redressal prior to 2014, in order to avoid frivolous complaints being filed, complaints accompanied by a complaint fee of Rs.1000/- were only to be considered for redressal as per the guidelines issued in 2014. However, complaint fees were to be refunded to complainants, in case complaints were established.

Further, the Committee were also informed about the major changes in Selection Guidelines in vogue for both Regular LPG Distributorships and RGGLVs between 2013 & 2015 which are as under:

- The selected candidate was allowed to make available the approach road for the godown within the time frame as specified in the LOI. Rejection would not be made on this account at the time of FVC
- Provisions were made to offer funds by the applicants in the form of Saving Account and Fixed Deposits in any Bank.
- The verification of the documents during FVC with the issuing authority in case of land for godown/showroom and validity of OBC certificate along with the non-creamy layer status was dispensed with.
- Procedure to deal with the complaint/representation received from the selected candidate regarding rejection of his/her candidature.

In addition to the above, the following major changes were also there in Selection Guidelines in vogue for Regular LPG Distributorships between 2013 & 2015

- The same land for provision of Godown/Showroom or same financial instrument(s) cannot be offered by more than one applicant against the same advertised location.
- Allowed NDNE retailer/distributor to apply subject to certain conditions.
- Exemptions was provided regarding induction of Spouse as a Co-owner

- Definition of 'ownership' of land for godown/showroom for individual category was modified to include land owned by parents and grandparents (both maternal and paternal) of the applicant
- More Clarity was brought in with regard to date from which the minimum 15 years lease period shall be applicable for Land offered for Godown/showroom.
- In case at the time of FVC the total funds shown by the selected candidate in the application is found to be at variance and not meeting the eligibility criteria as stipulated in the selection guidelines/brochure, then the candidate shall be allowed to offer alternate funds available as on last date of submission of application as specified either in the advertisement or corrigendum (if any).

10. The Committee in a written questionnaire further enquired about the change in policy regarding allotment of retail outlets post May 2014. It was also desired to be apprised regarding the reasons/grounds for formulating changes in the pre-May 2014 policy regarding allotment of retail outlets and LPG distributorship. Ministry was categorically asked to enlist the flaws or drawbacks in the earlier policy which necessitated the policy change. In response thereto, the Ministry in their written replies informed as under:

### **Retail Outlets**

11. Post revisions made in the Dealer Selection Guidelines, during 2014, Public Sector OMCs again revised the Guidelines w.e.f. Nov 2018. The changes which took place with the implementation of 2018 guidelines are as indicated below:

- Application system: System of submitting physical application along with all eligibility and land related documents has been discontinued. Now applicants can submit application only through the common online web portal of Public Sector OMC. At the time of submission of on-line application, applicants are allowed to only upload their photograph, scanned copy of their signature and are required to only submit declaration regarding their eligibility and offered land. No other documents are required to be uploaded / submitted by the applicant at the time of submitting on-line application.
- Selection Process: Selection which was done through manual Draw of Lots / Bid opening has been changed to selection through online Draw of Lots (DOL) / online

Bid-Opening (BO) in 2018. All applicants meeting the eligibility criteria qualify for further selection process through online computerized Draw of Lot / Bid Opening. Location wise status of selection is displayed in the online web portal of Public Sector OMC.

- Application Scrutiny Process: Scrutiny of applications by Application Scrutiny Committee was carried out for all applicants in a particular Group prior to carrying out LEC and selection through manual DOL / BO. As per 2018 guidelines, documents & Initial Security Deposit (ISD) equivalent to 10% of the Security Deposit for the respective category and type of RO is required to be submitted by the selected applicant after selection through online DOL / BO and scrutiny of application is carried out only for the selected applicants.
- Residential status: The condition stipulated under 2014 guidelines that an applicant should be resident of the district in which a “Rural RO” has been advertised, has been withdrawn in the 2018 guidelines. Now an applicant for all categories (including applicants of “Rural RO” locations) should be a resident of India (as per Income tax rules).
- Maximum Age: The maximum age limit of an applicant as on the date of application has been revised to 60 years, in 2018 guidelines. However, for locations advertised under Freedom Fighter (FF) category, relaxation on upper age limit continues to be applicable.
- Security deposit: Amount payable by the LOI holder (prior to issuance of Letter of Appointment) towards interest free refundable “Security deposit” including for locations advertised under SC/ST category has been modified as under:

Category	Regular RO	Rural RO
SC/ST	Rs. 3 lacs	Rs. 2 lacs
OBC	Rs. 4 lacs	Rs. 3 lacs
Open	Rs. 5 lacs	Rs. 4 lacs

- Complaint Fee: As per 2018 guidelines, complaints accompanied by a fee of Rs.5,000/- are only required to be considered for redressal. However, complaint fees continue to be refunded to complainants, in case of established complaints.

12. It was also stated that Public Sector OMCs have been amending the policies in line with the market dynamics and to improve transparency & ease of doing business. Revision of the pre-May 2014 selection guidelines was necessitated due to the following issues:

- Selection process: Evaluation based on information/document provided by every applicant in a location was voluminous, hence it was more prone to errors. Further, interview process was perceived as subjective which resulted into numerous complaints. Minor differences in marks were leading to complaints and court cases. Complaints/court cases also were filed by 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> empanelled candidate stalling the selection process and thereby resulting into delays in commissioning of retail outlets. Therefore, need was felt by OMCs to make the selection process more transparent by doing away with the marks and interview-based selection process and adopt the selection process through draw of lots/bidding opening. This new process of selection through draw of lots/bidding opening helped to eradicate subjectivity in selection.
- Reservation: For adhering to the broad reservation principles pronounced by the Hon'ble Supreme Court on introduction of reservation for OBC at 27%. Change in percentage reservation was introduced in the dealer selection guidelines as per advice from MOPNG.
- Separate reservation for "women" category was modified to include the spouse of the selected applicant as co-proprietor for the economic empowerment of women. Therefore, provision to accommodate the spouse of the selected applicant as a 50% partner at LOI stage was incorporated since 2014, subject to condition that the spouse is already not gainfully employed and wish to be made a partner.
- Land: With the deregulation of retail marketing of Petroleum products w.e.f. from 1.4.2002 and the emergence of the free-market scenario owing to the entry of private players in the retailing of automotive fuels, availability of suitable land became very critical for OMCs due to high expectation of the landowners. Moreover, due to economic development in the country land became scarce, costly and also opened up new opportunities for the landowners to utilize such land for alternate profitable purposes. Due to above, Public Sector OMCs were finding it

very difficult to fulfil the reservation % for SC/ST candidates in allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships. View above, policy on Dealer Selection was approved by MOP&NG vide letter No. P-19011/7/2011–IOC dated 20.07.2012 wherein, all the applicants including those applying for locations advertised under SC/ST category are required to arrange for land.

- Security deposit: With the introduction of state of art DUs, equipment etc, security deposit was increased to safeguard Public Sector OMC's investments at the Retail outlets.
- Complaint Fee: Complaint fee was introduced to discourage filling of vested and frivolous complaints. However, as compliant fees are refunded in case a complaint gets established, it is ensured that genuine complainants are not made to pay.

13. The Committee were also informed that as per the revised 2014 guidelines wherein SC/ST candidate is required to arrange for land, the success rate of SC/ST retail outlet commissioning has vastly improved as per the statistics on % share of SC/ST Commissioning vis-à-vis total commissioning numbers for the year. OMC wise details is as below :

OMC	2011-12	2021-22 (Apr-Dec 21)
BPCL	3.4%	25.6%
IOCL	2.7%	24.30%
HPCL	2.7%	22.9%

### **LPG Distributionship**

14. The Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG distributorships was issued on 23.06.2016. With the implementation of new guidelines, a transparent online system was developed and implemented by OMCs for transparency in selection of LPG distributorships. It is advantageous as compared to the earlier policy and offers more flexibility and ease for applicants. The present policy Unified Guidelines for Selection is an improvisation over the earlier policies. The comparison between Unified Section Guidelines and Previous Guidelines is as under :-

<b>Description</b>	<b>Previous Guidelines</b>	<b>Unified Selection Guidelines</b>
Guidelines	Separate guidelines for Regular Distributorships and RGGLVs	Unified Guidelines for all types of Distributorships
Distributorship Types	2 types of Distributorships - Regular & RGGLV and three market types - Urban, Urban-Rural & Rural	Four Types of Distributorship Areas - Sheheri, Rurban, Gramin & Durgam Vitrak
Application from non-individuals	Non individuals could apply for Regular LPG Distributorships only	Only Individuals can apply. Non individuals cannot apply for any type of LPG Distributorships
LPG Suvidha Kendra	No concept of LPG Suvidha Kendra	Provision of LPG 'Suvidha Kendra' has been made which is established on a temporary basis at the sole discretion of the OMCs to provide convenience to LPG customers till a new LPG Distributorship is set up covering the location.
Reservation for Women	No separate reservation for Women	Separate reservation of for Women has been provided across all categories of 33%. . For North East States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram & Nagaland, it is 30%.
Reservation for PH (Divyang) candidates	Reservation of PH category was included in the Sub Category for Reservation called as Combined Category (CC): 4% reservation.	PH category (Divyang) made an independent sub-Category for reservation with 3% Reservation
Reservation for able bodied ex-servicemen.	No reservation for ex-servicemen under 'GP' category.	Reservation for ex-servicemen provided in addition to the disabled in war/ while serving in operational area or in peace due to attributable or aggravated causes to military service. Inter-se priorities for Defence, Central para military forces, ex-servicemen etc.
Inter se Priority in GP Category	No inter se Priority in GP Category	Inter se priority introduced in GP Category in the following Sequence while conducting Draw. List 1: Widows/ Dependents of Armed Forces. List 2: Disabled personnel of Armed Forces, List 3: Ex- Servicemen who have served for the Armed Forces, List 4: Widows/ dependents of personnel of Central/ State Govt. and PSUs who died while performing duties and disabled personnel of Central/ State Govts. and PSUs causes attributable to performance of duties.
Reservation for OSP/FF	Provided for 4 % reservation along-with Differently abled persons (PH) in CC Category.	Now, separated and provided for 1% reservation exclusively in CC category for OSP/ FF Category.
Age Limit	Upper age limit of 45 years. (Except for FF category and SKO dealers)	Upper age limit of 60 years. (Except for FF category).

Residency	Citizen of India & Resident of India for Regular LPG Distributorship. Resident of Gram Panchayat of the advertised RGGLV as on date of application.	Citizen of India & Resident of India
Educational Qualification	Minimum qualification of Xth Standard or equivalent for RGGLV. & Minimum qualification of Graduate or equivalent for Regular Distributorships (Except for FF)	Minimum qualification of Xth Standard or equivalent for all formats of Distributorships (Except for FF)
Funds requirement	Rs. 10 lacs to 15 lacs for Regular Distributorships; Rs. 4 lacs for RGGLVs	Requirement of Funds not an eligibility criterion
Family Unit definition for Land ownership	"Family Unit" includes parents & grandparents (both maternal and paternal) of the applicant	Definition of family unit expanded to include parents & grandparents (both maternal and paternal) of the applicant or the spouse (in case of married applicants). For women applicants, the land of in laws is also included.
Spouse as partner	Mandatory for married LOI holders to take spouse as partner in LPG Distributorship	It is not mandatory to include spouse as partner in LPG Distributorship
Affidavits	Affidavits required for various declarations	All affidavits are replaced with self declaration/attestation at the time of submission of application form.
Rostering of locations to ensure reservation	Two 200 point roster maintained for each State. One each for Regular LPG Distributorships and RGGLV.	Three 200 point rosters maintained. One combined roster for Sheheri and Rurban Vitrak. One each for Gramin Vitrak and Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak.
Application money	Non refundable Application fee : Rs 1000/- per application	Non refundable Application fee per application : For Sheeheri Vitrak & Rurban Vitrak : Rs 10000/- per application (For OBC category : Rs. 5000/-, For SC/ST : Rs 3000/- ). For Gramin Vitrak & Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak : Rs 10000/- per application (For OBC category : Rs. 5000/-, For SC/ST : Rs 3000/- )
Security deposit collected as fee for conducting FVC for candidate	Regular Distributorship : Rs 50,000/- for Urban market and Rs 25,000/- For Urban -Rural & Rural category Distributorship. For RGGLV : Rs.20,000/-	Security deposit collected for conducting FVC : For Sheheri Vitrak & Rurban Vitrak : Rs 50,000 (For OBC category : Rs. 40,000, For SC/ST : Rs 30,000 ). For Gramin Vitrak & Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak :Rs 40,000 (For OBC category : Rs. 30,000, For SC/ST : Rs 20,000 )
Security deposit	Regular Distributorship : Rs 5 Lakhs for Urban market and Rs 2.5 Lakhs For Urban -Rural & Rural category Distributorship. For RGGLV :	Non refundable Security deposit : For Sheeheri Vitrak & Rurban Vitrak : Rs 5 Lakhs (For OBC category : Rs. 4 Lakhs, For SC/ST : Rs 3 lakhs- ). For Gramin Vitrak & Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak : Rs 4 lakhs (For OBC

	Rs.2 lakhs	category : Rs. 3 lakhs, For SC/ST : Rs 2 lakhs )
Mode of selection	For Regular LPG Distributorships : Advertisements published in 2 newspapers - one English daily having widest circulation in the State and one vernacular with widest circulation in District where the location is situated. For RGGLV : Advertisements published in 2 vernacular newspapers - one in widest circulation in the State and other with widest circulation in District.	Selection will be done by inviting applications through capsule advertisements. Capsule advertisements will be published in three vernacular newspapers , one having highest circulation in the state and two having highest circulation in the district. It is not mandatory to publish advertisement in English. For any discrepancy the vernacular advertisement will prevail
Complaint investigation fee	Complaint fee : Rs. 1000/- . Complaints which are not accompanied by complaint fee or complaints received after 30 days of draw date or declaration of result will not be investigated.	Complaint fee : Rs. 5000/-. Complaints which are not accompanied by complaint fee or complaints received after 30 days of draw date or declaration of result will not be investigated.
Godown Land	Godown land should be situated within the municipal limits in case of Urban/Regular location. For Urban/Rural should "own" a plot of land within 15 Kms from municipal/ town/ village limit of the Location offered in the same state for Godown. For RGGLV the land should be situated at the RGGLV Location .	Shehri and Rurban Vitrak Selected candidates for locations falling under 'X' and 'Y' category Metro Cities/Cities/State will be allowed to construct the godown in and within 15 km outside the Municipal limit of the town/City of the advertised location. For Gramin Vitrak the candidate should 'Own' a plot of land of minimum dimensions 21 Metre x 26 Metre within 15 km from the advertised location. For Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak the candidate should 'Own' a plot of land of minimum dimensions 15 Metre x 16 Metre within the village/cluster of village limits as per the advertised location.

15. It was also informed that the number of OMC's SC-ST LPG distributors has increased by 87% as on 1st Jan' 2022 as compared to number of SC-ST distributors as on 1st Apr 2014 as detailed below:

Total numbers of SC/ST distributors as on 01.04.2014 Vs 01.09.2021
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OMC	01.04.2014	01.01.2022
SC-ST distributors	2692	5026

This significant increase in SC-ST LPG distributors is due to the following reasons:

- a. Implementation of Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG distributorships w.e.f. 23-06-2016 in which selection criteria has been relaxed compared to earlier selection guidelines and also that the complete selection process was done online, which brought in transparency and speeded up the Selection Process.
- b. Advertisement of over 6300 locations done on industry basis under Unified Guidelines, out of which over 80% locations have now been commissioned.

16. The Committee enquired regarding the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who have applied for allotment of petrol pump and distributorship of gas agency and how many among them been issued letter of intent (LOI) and subsequently letter of appointment for petrol pump allotment and gas distributorship. In response thereto, the ministry in their post evidence replies stated that As on 01.04.2022 the details sought for number of locations (for Retail Outlets) advertised for SCs & STs, number of locations under this category where response received, the number of Letter of Intent (LOI) issued and number of ROs commissioned along with issuance of Letter of Appointment (LoA) to SC/ST category, advertisement wise by PSU OMCs are given as below:

Public Sector OMC (IOC/BPC//HPC)	Number of RO Locations advertised under SC & ST category .	Number of RO Locations under SC & ST category response/application received.	Number of LOIs issued for SCs & STs	Number of ROs commissioned along with LOA issuance for SCs & STs
2014 advertisement	13046	5952	2968	2032
2018 advertisement	20921	20360	8247	3139

17. A total of 11,215 number of Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued by Public Sector OMCs for SC/ST Retail Outlet dealerships towards advertisements issued in 2014 & 2018. Of these, 5171 number of Retail Outlets have been commissioned as on 01.04.2022 under SC/ST category. A total of 6044 LOIs under SC/ST category are

pending at various stages of commissioning as on 01.04.2022. Pending LOIs which are yet to be operationalized (commissioned) by IOCL, BPCL and HPCL are 2635, 1862 and 1547 respectively.

### **LPG Distributorships**

18. When asked by the Committee about the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who have applied for allotment of distributorship of gas agency as per USG 2016 till 01-04-22, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in their written reply provided the following details:

<b>OMC (IOC/BPC//HPC)</b>	<b>SC/ST Locations Advertised</b>	<b>SC/ST Applicants</b>
<b>2016-17</b>	324	7000
<b>2017-18</b>	979	15154
<b>2018-19</b>	89	1205
<b>2019-20</b>	15	377
<b>2020-21</b>	5	2
<b>2021-22</b>	11	222
<b>Total</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>23960</b>

19. As regard to the status of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Letter of Appointment (LOA) issued to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates against advertisement in a particular year in many cases took considerable time and issuance of LOI & LOA happened in subsequent years, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas furnished on cumulative basis as per USG 2016 as on 01-04-2022 as under:

<b>OMC</b>	<b>SC/ST Locations Advertised</b>	<b>LOI Issued</b>	<b>LOA Issued</b>
IOC	723	606	568
BPC	351	283	263
HPC	349	296	282
<b>OMC</b>	<b>1423</b>	<b>1185</b>	<b>1113</b>

20. All SC-ST locations where LOA were issued as mentioned in point (b) above have been commissioned. Total of 1185 nos. of LOI under SC/ST category have been issued. Out of these, 72 nos. of LOI under SC/ST are in various stages of progress for commissioning. The Committee have also been informed that out of 2164 LOIs issued

by OMC of SC/ST, 2076 have already been commissioned. 88 LOIs of SC/ST are under various stages of Commissioning as on 01.04.22.

21. In a power point presentation made before the Committee on the subject matter the Ministry has provide following details:

**Allotment of ROs To SCs as on 01.04.2022**

PSUs	Total No. of ROs	ROs allotted to SCs	Percentage
BPCL	16434	1981	12.05
IOCL	28284	3435	12.1
HPCL	16010	2292	14.3

**Allotment of ROs To STs as on 01.04.2022**

PSUs	Total No. of ROs	ROs allotted to STs	Percentage
BPCL	16434	845	5.14
IOCL	28284	1488	5.3
HPCL	16010	938	5.9

**Allotment of LPG Distributorship to SCs as on 01.04.2022**

PSUs	Total No. of Distributorship	Distributorship allotted to SCs	Percentage
BPCL	5598	963	17.20
IOCL	11520	1810	15.71
HPCL	5454	913	16.7

**Allotment of LPG Distributorship to STs as on 01.04.2022**

PSUs	Total No. of Distributorship	Distributorship allotted to STs	Percentage
BPCL	5598	282	5.04
IOCL	11520	743	6.45
HPCL	5454	339	6.2

22. During the course of evidence, Hon'ble Chairperson pointed out the following:

“पॉलिसी में जो परिवर्तन हुआ, तो किस लेवल से आदेश चला गया? क्या वह मंत्री जी के लेवल से गया या किसी अधिकारी के लेवल से आदेश गया? उस वक्त मुझे बताया गया था कि this decision was taken at the level of Board. मंत्री जी को पता नहीं था, तो यह बहुत ही गम्भीर

बात है। इस प्रकार का जो मसला है, It is a policy decision. इस प्रकार का डिसिज़न बिना हायर लेवल को बताए किस प्रकार से लिया जाता है? अगर इस तरह की बात किसी से हुई है, तो हमें एक एकाउंटैबिलिटी तय करनी होगी क्योंकि इस प्रकार का निर्णय कोई नहीं कर सकता है।“

23. However, when the representatives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas couldn't elaborate on the same, Hon'ble Chairperson while censuring the casual attitude of the Ministry stated as under:

“मैंने बोला था कि यह मीटिंग कब हुई थी और उस वक्त हमें डेट बतायी गयी थी। आपने भी लिखित रूप से हमें वह डेट बतायी है, मगर यहां जितने भी वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारी हैं, शायद किसी को पता नहीं है। आपने जवाब में हमें यह लिखा है कि “ ‘Reply with regard to retail outlets’. जो आपने लिखकर जवाब दिया है, वह मैं अक्षरशः बोल रहा हूं। Public Sector oil marketing companies revised the dealers selection guidelines with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2014.” यह 21 मई को हुआ है तथा यह निर्णय ऑयल कंपनी के तौर पर लिया गया है और न ही सचिवालय को बताया गया है। ऑयल कंपनी इस प्रकार का निर्णय अपनेआप कैसे ले सकती है? मैं बहुत हैरान हूं। It is again written that “the major changes that took place in the implementation of 2014 guidelines are given below.” यह नीचे लिखा हुआ है। माथुर जी यह बहुत ही गंभीर विषय है, जो मैं आपके संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूं। That also is pertaining to SCs and STs, जो बहुत ही पिछड़ा हुआ तबका है।”

24. Hon'ble Chairperson further sought following clarification regarding the allotment of petrol pumps and gas agencies:

“आपने जो आँकड़े दिए हैं, चाहे एससी/एसटी से संबंधित आरओज के एलॉटमेंट हों या एलपीज के एलॉटमेंट हों, मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एलॉटमेंट हुए हैं, दो प्रकार के लोकेशंस होते हैं। मान लीजिए कि एक दिल्ली और उसके अगल-बगल के लोकेशन हैं और दूसरा बहुत ही रिमोट लोकेशन है। इसमें जो क्रीमी लोकेशंस हैं, वे कितने परसेंट हैं। जो बहुत ही रिमोट लोकेशंस में हैं, जहाँ उनको कोई बिज़नेस ही नहीं मिलता है, अगर वहाँ एससी/एसटी के लोग ज्यादा हैं, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह अन्याय होगा। हमें उसके आँकड़े चाहिए। मुझे बहुत ही कंक्रीट आँकड़ा चाहिए। आपको उसका जो भी ग्रेडेशन करना हो, आप कीजिए। मान लीजिए कि सिटीज में आप ए ग्रेड कहें, ए प्लस या बी कहें, जो भी हो। जो गांव में या जंगल में हैं, तो वहाँ कौन फ्यूल फिल-अप कराने आएगा? इसलिए हमें इसके आँकड़े दीजिए।”

25. Upon being enquired by the Committee regarding the number of Retail outlets allotted to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates in creamy/profitable and remote locations respectively, the Ministry in their post evidence replies stated that retail outlets locations are identified and advertised by Public Sector OMCs based on commercial / minimum volume considerations as per extant norms. Locations finalized for setting up of Retail Outlets are placed under different categories of reservation under the roster for each State by the Public Sector OMC so as to ensuring and maintaining

the percentage reservation for each category and that there is no other categorization of locations and thus, locations are not categorized as creamy/profitable & remote locations.

26. The Committee also enquired regarding the mechanism available for disbursement of financial aid to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates for setting up an operational retail outlet or gas agency post receiving necessary approvals and licenses. The Ministry in their post evidence replies made the following submissions:

#### **Retail Outlet Dealerships**

27. After the receipt of approvals and at the time of RO commissioning, on the request of the SC/ST category LOI holders are provided adequate working capital assistance / loan for a full operation cycle of the Dealerships by Public Sector OMCs as per extant guidelines. The loan request as per Corpus Fund Scheme of extant guidelines are approved to the selected SC/ST category LOI holders/dealers. The SC/ST candidates are disbursed the financial/ working capital loan by way of supply of product to the dealership.

#### **LPG Distributorships**

28. OMCs provide Working Capital Loan to SC/ST distributors post receiving necessary approvals and licenses to facilitate commissioning of LPG distributorship. Adequate working capital loan at (SBI PLR + 1 %) interest per annum, for a full operation cycle of the operation of the distributorship is provided for Shehri, Rurban & Gramin Market Distributors. For DKV, interest rate is 11% per annum. Both the working capital as well as interest thereon will be recovered in 100 equal monthly instalments on reducing balance from the 13th month of commissioning of the Distributorship.

The Committee were also informed about the details of working capital provided by various Public Sector oil companies to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates under corpus fund scheme during the past five years which is as under:

#### **Retail Outlet Dealerships**

29. The details of financial assistance to SC/ST category candidates/dealerships under “corpus fund scheme” during the last five years is given below :

During the last five years period i.e for 2017-18; 2018-19; 2019-20; 2020-21 & 2021-22, Corpus Fund Assistance provided by Public Sector OMCs are as below :-

<b>PSU OMC</b>	<b>SC/ST dealers</b>	<b>Amount (in lakh)</b>
IOCL	1511	24,092
BPCL	1687	22,476
HPCL	680	10,217

### **LPG Distributorships**

30. Details of working capital provided by OMC to SC/ST category candidates under corpus fund scheme during the past five years is furnished below:

<b>OMC</b>	<b>No. of (SC/ST) Dealers</b>	<b>Amount (Rs. In lakhs)</b>
LPG Distributors	109	530.83

31. The Committee also enquired regarding the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who have been able to make the retail outlet or gas agency operational successfully every year since 2014. The Ministry in their post evidence replies provided the information as under:

### **Retail Outlet Dealerships**

32. The details of commissioning of ROs by Public Sector OMCs is as below :

<b>PSU OMCs</b>	<b>No. of SC/ST commissioning (A)</b>	<b>Total number of commissioning (B)</b>	<b>% share of SC/ST commissioning C = A/B%</b>
2014-15	44	2022	2.17
2015-16	180	2252	7.99
2016-17	400	2055	19.46
2017-18	577	2087	27.64
2018-19	478	1481	32.27
2019-20	678	4042	16.77
2020-21	1682	7602	22.12
2021-22	1432	5342	26.80

### **LPG Distributorships**

33. Year wise Commissioning details of SC-ST LPG Distributors are as under:

<b>Year</b>	<b>SC/ST</b>	<b>Total under Marketing Plan</b>	<b>SC/ST %</b>
2014-15	453	2138	21.19%
2015-16	393	1962	20.03%
2016-17	191	882	21.66%
2017-18	257	1312	19.59%
2018-19	699	3590	19.47%
2019-20	250	976	25.61%
2020-21	129	485	26.60%
2021-22	59	211	27.96%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2431</b>	<b>11556</b>	<b>21.04%</b>

34. The Ministry in a written questionnaire were asked to provide information regarding the number and nature of complaints filed by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates since the advent of new guidelines post 2014 w.r.t allotment of retail outlet or gas agency. The following submissions were made in this regard.

### **Retail Outlet Dealerships**

35. Since advent of new guidelines in 2014 w.r.t allotment of retail outlet, Public Sector OMCs have received 805 complaints (IOCL:273 / BPCL:306 / HPCL:226) in respect of selection for the locations advertised under SC/ST category. The complaints are mainly pertaining to Selection, Land related issues, against applicants & regarding submission of incorrect/false information/documents.

### **LPG Distributorships**

36. No complaint has been received from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates regarding allotment of gas agency.

37. The Committee further sought clarifications regarding the basis on which the new allotment policy was framed w.r.t to Retail outlets allotment and whether all stakeholders were consulted during the framing of new policy and the inputs offered by each. The Ministry in their written reply stated that encouraged by success of “Draw of Lots” for selection of LPG distributors, it was decided to adopt the same process for selection of Retail Outlet dealers. The 2014 RO dealer selection guidelines were drawn on the basis of broad guidelines approved by MOPNG vide letters dated 20.07.2012

and 17.02.2014. Upon enquiring whether the modification of the guidelines was taken at Ministerial level or Board level, the Committee were informed that Dealer selection guidelines for Retail Outlets were revised by Public Sector OMCs and issued on 21st May, 2014 in line with MoP&NG's letter no P-30024/33/2012-MC dated 17.02.2014.

38. Further, The new allotment policy the Unified Guidelines for Selection 2016 was framed based on the review of the prevalent selection guidelines with a view to improvise and ease parameters on finance and land ownership, while also considering the market classification and refill ceiling limits .The inputs provided for the USG-2016 policy was reviewed by all OMC's and implemented after due deliberation and approval from MOP & NG.

39. The Committee also sought views of the Ministry regarding the restoration of the earlier policy and likely constraints in case of restoration of earlier policy. The Ministry in their written replies stated that with regard to Retail Outlets, restoration of earlier policy would be a retrograde step. The dealer selection guidelines introduced by Public Sector OMCs in 2014 which was made further transparent with the issuance of selection guidelines in 2018 incorporating the initiative of Govt. of India on "Ease of doing business". The new guidelines have not only increased transparency in the selection process but also considerably increased the speed of processing the applications and therefore reverting to earlier policy will defeat the very purpose.

40. In their post evidence replies, the Ministry further stated that As per guidelines prior to 2014 and also post 2014, in respect of locations reserved for SC/ST categories, the concerned oil company will make available the ready Retail outlets with all basic facilities at its cost. Though in guidelines prior to 2014, SC/ST applicants were not expected to offer land, there were no restrictions on them for offering land at the time of application or later. However, as land was mostly not offered the SC/ST applicants, outlets were not getting commissioned due to want of suitable land despite selection and issuance of LOIs.

41. It was also stated that though, post 2014, it was made mandatory for SC/ST applicants to identify and offer suitable land (either owned / leased / obtained on firm offer basis) at the time of application, land continues to be procured by the OMCs (on long term lease basis or outright purchase) either from the LOI holder or directly from

the landowner who was identified by the SC/ST applicant. It may be noted that the amended guidelines aided the OMCs in identifying suitable land for SC/ST reserved locations and there is no change in the obligations on the part of the OMCs as far as procurement of land and providing infrastructure to SC/ST applicants.

42. Further, it may be noted that efforts of OMCs to procure suitable land for SC/ST LOI holders through multiple public advertisement and also requests to various state government to provide suitable government land has not yielded desired results. It is not desirable to revert to old policy as it would adversely affect commissioning numbers of ROs for the SC/ST applicants.

43. During the evidence sitting, Hon'ble Chairperson made the following observations:

“सबसे अहम मुद्दा यह है कि एससी/एसटी के नाम पर उसको जमीन नहीं मिलती है, तो वह मजबूर हो जाता है और वह किसी पैसे वाले के पास जाता है, जिसमें वह निवेश करता है। उसे एक मजदूर से थोड़ा ज्यादा, लगभग 12 हजार रुपए या 15 हजार रुपए प्रति माह पैसे मिल जाते हैं। उसमें नाम तो उसका रहता है। यह बहुत ही गम्भीर विषय है। हमारे सभी सदस्यों ने अपने अनुभव के आधार पर इस मुद्दे को उठाया है। इसलिए हम चाहते हैं कि जो पहले की पॉलिसी थी, उसमें संबंधित व्यक्ति 100 प्रतिशत आरओज का मालिक होता था, 100 प्रतिशत गैस डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन एजेंसी का मालिक होता था, उसको किसी के पास हाथ नहीं फैलाना पड़ता था क्योंकि सरकार और कम्पनियाँ उसकी मदद में खड़ी रहती थी।”

44. Upon being enquired by the Committee about regarding the LPG distributorship, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in their post evidence replies stated that the earlier allotment policy had two separate guidelines, one for Regular LPG distributorships and one for RGGLV, which were being followed. In the new allotment policy, the Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG distributorships provides a single guideline for all types of LPG distributorships. There is more flexibility in the current policy as compared to the earlier policy. In the new policy the applications are received online along with online fees through Industry portal [www.lpgvitarakchayan.in](http://www.lpgvitarakchayan.in). The new Unified Guidelines for Selection provides flexibility on the eligibility conditions and special relaxations for Government personals having inter se priority. In their post evidence replies, the Ministry also informed that at present Government has no proposal under consideration to change the existing policy.

## CHAPTER II

### RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS

1. The Committee are of understanding that rarely there a member of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community included in Board of Directors of OMCs. The Committee would like to be apprised about the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates who have been appointed in the Board of Directors as official or non official directors during the past five years. The Committee would like to emphasize that inclusion of members of SC/ST community in the Board of Directors is pertinent as they bring forth the views of SC/ST employees of the organization. The Committee are of considered opinion that a representative of SC/ST community is better attuned to the trials and tribulations of SC/ST employees and thus their position in the Board of Directors is bound to work in the interest of SC/ST employees. The Committee also feels that due weightage and necessary relaxation be extended to SC/ST candidates while considering them for a position in the Board of Directors. This would not only provide an opportunity to representative of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be a part of policy/decision making process but also act as platform to enhance the prospects of other SC/ST employees working in the organization. The Committee would also like to recommend that Ministry should also take initiative and propose amendment in the existing rules/regulations to facilitate appointment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Board of Directors.
2. The Committee would like to invite the attention of Ministry towards DOPT OM No.36012/ 16/2019-Esttt. (Res.) dated 12.04.2022 which *inter alia* stipulates reservation in promotions in higher posts. The Committee would like to recommend that Ministry should take cognizance of the same and put together a mechanism in place to ensure implementation of the said DOPT OM scrupulously. The Committee would also like to direct that the Ministry should leave no stone unturned to ensure that the said exercise is completed within a stipulated time

period. Further, the Committee should also be apprised about the progress made in this regard.

3. The Committee are pleased to note that the staff strength in OMCs is satisfying the requisite percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The figures pertaining to recruitment and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are almost complying with the mandated percentage for reservation/representation. However, BPCL needs to put in sincere and extra efforts in this regard as the percentage of STs is quite low in Group A, B and C category of posts. The Committee also note that in BPCL, representation of SCs in Group B and C is also not upto the mark. BPCL have stated that no recruitment was carried out in the year 2020 and 2021 on account of pandemic. However it is pertinent to note that the recruitment figures relating to SCs and STs are also quite dismal being 7.7% and 2.1% respectively for the year 2019. Likewise, the percentage of promotion to the lowest rung of Group A stands at 11.11% and 5.55% for SCs and STs respectively whereas the same is NIL for promotion to Group B and C posts for SCs and STs. The said position cannot be justified on the ground of pandemic. The Committee would like to recommend that Ministry should impress upon BPCL to fulfil the mandated representation of SCs and STs in services. The Committee may be categorically apprised of the reasons for the foresaid low representation with corrective action taken in this regard within three months of presentation of this Report in Both the Houses of Parliament. The Committee also note that in IOCL, the number of SCs and STs promoted to Group A, B and C are less than that the mandated percentage for the year 2021. The Committee recommend that Ministry should also issue necessary directions to IOCL to bring the figures as per percentage of reservation fixed for SC/ST as per DOPT guidelines and submit the reasons for low figures along with corrective measures taken in this regard.

4. The Committee note that there are 3 SC and 1 ST Group A backlog vacancy in BPCL, HPCL has a backlog of 7 SC vacancy in Group C. Backlog figures in IOCL are massive with 21 SC and 24 ST backlog vacancy in Group A, Group C has 11 backlog vacancies (6 SC and 5 ST) and Group D has 5 Backlog vacancies

(3 SC and 2 ST). The Committee do not accept the contention offered by OMCs that required number of SC/ST candidates are not available. The Committee recommend that Special recruitment Drive be carried out at the earliest and all the backlog vacancies in all the relevant Public Sector Oil Companies be filled within 3 months of presentation of this Report in Both the Houses of Parliament.

5. The Committee have been informed that OMC engages contractual labourers through contractors and it is ensured that various benefits are provided to them. However, the Committee has not been provided details regarding the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes personnel employed through contractual appointment. The Committee may be provided details in this regard and whether the reservation representation/percentage is being scrupulously maintained in these appointments. If no data has been prepared for the said purpose, the same may be compiled since the last 05 years and information may be provided accordingly. The Committee would further like to invite the attention of Ministry and OMCs to DoPT order No. 36036/3/2018-Estt dated 15.05.2018 whereby reservations are to be made for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in all temporary appointments, except appointments which are to last for less than 45 days. The Committee recommend that OMCs being principal employer should impress upon the contractors to follow the aforesaid order in letter and spirit to ensure adequate representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in contractual appointments. The said instructions may also be included in the contract document to be made in future.

6. The Committee are flabbergasted to note that Ministry in its written replies has been quite evasive regarding as to how the current guidelines were formulated and its approval process. Even the top officials while rendering evidence before the Committee were clueless and incoherent in their submission in the matter. No clarity has been offered about whether the policy was ratified at the Board/Ministerial level. The Committee would like to place on record that by giving full autonomy to OMCs in the matter, the Ministry has itself reduced its stature to that of a mere rubber stamp. The current guidelines clearly favour

OMCs whereby they are absolved from hunting suitable locations for inception of petrol pumps and gas agencies. This is the precise reason why the Ministry in its reply has deemed reverting back to the previous policy which clearly favoured Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates as a 'retrograde' step. The Committee are unable to comprehend as to why the Ministry is dithering regarding restoration of old policy. The Committee have been informed that in 2014 Retail Outlet selection guidelines have been drawn on the basis of broad guidelines approved by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* letters dated 20.07.2012 and 17.02.2014. The Committee may be provided a copy of aforementioned letters/communications. The Committee would further like to point out that since OMCs are commercial ventures whose main objective is to make profit but at the same time Oil Companies being a Public Sector, the interest of SCs/STs should not be left solely on the Board of OMCs, as to safeguard the interest of SCs/STs is the mandatory duty of the Ministry concerned. The Committee would like to impress that before the guidelines/policy are prepared and approved by the Board of OMCs/Ministry, such a vital issue should also be duly referred to Parliamentary Committee before the same are implemented by the OMCs. The Committee also recommend that the guidelines for the selection of Dealerships/Distributorships of petroleum products/major policy issues framed and implemented by the OMCs should firstly be vetted and approved by the Ministry before these are implemented by the OMCs to safeguard the interest of SCs/STs with utmost sincerity and responsibility.

7. The Committee feel that Ministry and OMCs are in cahoots in the matter and do not want to put in sincere efforts in scouting suitable lands for setting up petrol pumps and gas agencies. The Committee would like to categorically point out that being pioneering OMCs of India, BPCL, HPCL and IOCL should not shirk away from the responsibility of identifying and acquiring land for setting up of petrol pumps for the allottees belonging to SC/ST communities who are socially and economically backward since a considerable period of time. In fact, OMCs should be the one selecting such locations on the basis of market survey, revenue generation and turnover statistics and purchasing them as well. Placing

the burden of land selection and acquiring on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates would not be a profitable scenario in case the petrol pumps and gas agencies shut down due to lack of aforementioned skill set in novice SC/ST dealers. The Committee unanimously recommend that in case the guidelines cannot be reverted back as a whole to previous one at least the clause pertaining to offering suitable land at advertised location be done away with at least in the case of SC/ST candidates so that genuine and needy candidates of these communities can apply for ownership of petrol pumps and gas agencies. Further, it is recommended that Ministry may also explore the possibility of providing land to the applicants on lease basis for setting up retail outlets. The Committee would like to call attention of Ministry to the fact that arranging suitable lands for RO Dealerships/LPG Distributorships for SCs/STs is foremost so that various concessions/relaxations and financial support provided to them can have real meaning.

8. The Committee have unanimous opinion that the revamping of retail outlet/dealership guidelines post 2014 have rather proved to be an inflection point w.r.t the interests of SC/ST applicants vying for allotment of petrol pumps. In the opinion of the Committee with the advent of new guidelines, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes applicants have been burdened with the onerous task of finding suitable lands themselves. Moreover, the Ministry in its written replies have informed that Public sector OMCs are not extending any financial aid to applicants for locations under SC/ST category for the purpose of acquiring land. The Committee are not inclined to accept the way of working of the Ministry which has turned a blind eye towards the unruly practices restored by a few Officers/individuals, thereby depriving deserving Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates from accruing benefits who got LOI and could not yield desired results owing to change in policy. It is no secret that most of SC/ST population hails from humble background and possess no means for procuring lands at lucrative locations for the purpose of setting up of petrol pumps. Thus, they are often swindled by individuals seeking to siphon perks relating to reservation rules and preying upon the vulnerability of SC/ST people. It seems that Ministry is not keen to address the fact that there are benami operation of petrol pumps rampant throughout the country whereby few individuals who are in

possession of suitable lands are running the petrol pumps in the name of SC/ST individuals covertly. The Committee would like to be apprised regarding the methodology and procedure adopted by the OMCs to check benami operations. The Committee, therefore, desire that the Government should take sincere and serious efforts to curb the practice of benami operations. Running of petrol pumps and gas agencies in the name of SC and ST people by others not only deprives many deserving SC/ST people an opportunity to ameliorate their socio-economic conditions, but also amounts to atrocity towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and should be dealt with severely. The Committee would also like to recommend that compliance reports be sought from OMCs regarding benami operations functional within their respective domains and take stern actions against such persons who are creating hurdles in the way of reservation policy to achieve its targets.

9. The Committee are aghast to note that the Ministry on one hand have stated that efforts of OMCs to procure suitable land for SC/ST LOI holders through multiple public advertisement and also requests to various state government to provide suitable government land has not yielded desired results and on the other hand materialize guidelines which place the onus of acquiring the land onto SC/ST individuals which is an implausible proposition. The Committee are perplexed to note that if the task of seeking land by OMCs in collaboration with State Government is a formidable task then how is it expected that a person belonging to SC/ST community with no financial support and no insight on the matter would be able to achieve such far-fetched goal. The current guidelines clearly donot allow the benefits to the grass root level SC/ST people. The Committee are baffled at the double standards of the Ministry and OMCs in this regard. Inclusion of such clause is an open opportunity to deprive poor SC/ST individuals from benefits who have a combined stake of 22.5% in the ownership of petrol pumps. The Committee are of concerted opinion that the rising number of SC/ST dealership being registered in the name of SC/ST dealership/ownership is a blatant manifestation of the same wherein the petrol pumps are registered in the name of SC/ST only in paper but are being run by

others who provide land to these SC/ST applicants to gain dealership and in lieu pay a meager amount to these gullible SC/ST people. It is clear that the post 2014 guidelines has provided the opportunity to the Ministry and OMCs to pass the buck on to the SC/ST applicants whereby no financial assistance is being offered for obtaining suitable land be it at rural or urban location. The Committee are dismayed at the insouciant stance of the Ministry in the matter. The Committee would like to express its displeasure at the nonchalant attitude of the Ministry in the matter whereby SC/ST individuals have been left to fend on their own. The Committee would like that Ministry in consultation with OMCs should strategically devise ways in which SC/ST applicants can be provided financial aid *via corpus fund* for acquiring land as well.

10. The Committee would like to recommend that Ministry should direct OMCs to carry out regular survey and surprise inspection be carried out at various petrol pumps throughout the country to curb the practice of benami operations. Also during such inspections, proof of ownership, caste certificate and office accounts/ledgers bearing signature, payment details in account and name of owners be examined impromptu along with mandatory presence of owner to establish authenticity of ownership. The Committee further recommend that the Government should undertake this exercise within three month of the presentation of this report in both the Houses of the Parliament and should also apprise the Committee of the progress made in this regard.

11. The Committee note that most of SC/ST dealers avail Corpus Fund facilities provided by the OMCs for setting up RO dealerships. The Committee are of the view that for many SCs and STs to own a retail outlet dealership is a mammoth project which attracts astronomical investments for setting up. Therefore, many of the SCs and STs, barring few educated ones, are not inclined to apply for dealerships/distributorships thinking that they would not be able to run the dealerships/distributorships. The Committee opine that many SCs and STs are still oblivious of the fact that a Corpus Fund Scheme and other assistance are provided by the OMCs to set up dealerships/distributorships. The Committee,

therefore, recommend that to gain attention of deserving educated unemployed SC/ST candidates to apply for dealerships/ distributorships, the various assistance, facilities, concessions and especially the Corpus Fund Scheme should be clearly highlighted in the advertisements. The Committee also recommend that the OMCs should underline in the said advertisement that SC/ST applicants will be provided all assistance under the Corpus Fund Scheme, if selected, for dealerships/ distributorships.

12. The Committee appreciate the assistance provided to the SC/ST allottees of RO dealerships and LPG distributorships by the OMCs and feel that it would considerably motivate many SC/ST people to undertake these ventures. The Committee also feel that there is an important factor which is very imperative for the successful operation of these projects. Imparting training for successful running of dealerships and distributorships is important since many SC/ST allottee will generally lack business acumen and if not given proper training the projects will not succeed as desired. The Committee are, therefore, of the view that apart from financial assistance, providing trainings to the SC/ST allottees will be very integral to the success of these schemes provided to the SC/ST people for their economic development. The Committee, therefore, recommend that apart from financial assistance, the OMCs should compulsorily provide necessary trainings to SC/ST allottees on running of retail outlets and gas agencies so that the purpose for which the Retail Dealerships/LPG Distributorships is given to them do not go in vain.

13. The Committee have been informed that as per the new guidelines the concept of interest free refundable security deposit has been introduced whereby the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes applicants needs to shell out Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 3 lakh while applying for dealership of Rural RO and Regular RO respectively. The Committee feels that such high security fee would prove deterrent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes applicants hailing from low income group and would further dissuade them for venturing into the application process for Petrol pumps. It is therefore recommended that the Ministry should

make earnest efforts to do way with the security fee for SC/ST applicants applying for rural RO and regular RO or reducing it to Rs. 50,000/ and Rs. 1 lakh respectively.

New Delhi;  
December 2022  
Agrahayana , 1944(Saka)

**DR.(Prof.) KIRIT P. SOLANKI**  
Chairperson,  
Committee on the Welfare of  
Scheduled Castes and  
Scheduled Tribes.

**APPENDIX I**

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES  
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES  
(2022-2023)  
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**THIRD SITTING  
(25.05.2022)**

**MINUTES**

The Committee sat from 1100 hrs. to 1215 hrs. in Committee Room 'D', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi-110001

**PRESENT**

Shri Kirit Premjibhai Solanki - Chairperson

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Girish Chandra
3. Shri Tapir Gao
4. Shri Rattan Lal Kataria
5. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
6. Smt. Pratima Mondal
7. Shri Chhedi Paswan
8. Shri Prince Raj
9. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
10. Shri Krupal BalajiTumane

**RAJYA SABHA**

11. Shri Abir RanjanBiswas
12. Shri Nabam Rebia
13. Smt. Kanta Kardam

**SECRETARIAT**

- 1 Shri D.R. Shekhar, Joint Secretary
- 2 Shri P.C. Choulda, Director
- 3 Shri. V. K. Shailon, Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Hon'ble Chairperson welcomed all the Members to the sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the representatives of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) were called in to render evidence before the Committee. A power point presentation was made by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas on the issue of "Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/Units to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" after obtaining concurrence for the same from the Hon'ble Chairperson of the Committee.

2. During the power point presentation, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas made the following submissions:

- a) Percentage of SC employees in BPCL, IOCL, HPCL and ONGC as on 01.04.2022 was 15.58 %, 17.16 %, 17.1 % and 15.39 % respectively. Likewise percentage of ST employees in BPCL, IOCL, HPCL and ONGC as on 01.04.2022 was 6.09 %, 7.95 %, 8.1 % and 11.13 % respectively.
- b) Percentage of Retail Outlets allotted to Scheduled Castes as on 01.04.2022 by BPCL, IOCL and HPCL was 12.05 %, 12.1 % and 14.3 % respectively. Likewise percentage of Retail Outlets allotted to Scheduled Tribes as on 01.04.2022 by BPCL, IOCL and HPCL was 5.14 %, 5.3 % and 5.9 % respectively.
- c) Percentage of LPG distributionship allotted to Scheduled Castes as on 01.04.2022 was 17.2 %, 15.71 %, and 16.7 %. Likewise percentage of LPG distributionship allotted to Scheduled Tribes as on 01.04.2022 was 5.04 %, 6.45 %, and 6.2 %.
- d) Change in selection process in 2014 from point-based to bidding / draw of lots. Further w.e.f 2018, applications are to be submitted through web-portal.
- e) With regard to LPG distributionship, Unified Guidelines have been introduced in 2016.
- f) Financial assistance in terms of Corpus Fund Scheme w.r.t Retails Outlets and loans w.r.t to LPG distributionship are being offered.

3. Thereafter, Members of the Committee raised numerous queries with respect to issues of reservation for SCs and STs in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/Units to SCs and STs. Some of the pertinent points are enlisted as under:

- a) Strength of contractual/outsourced employees in Public Sector oil Companies.
- b) Figures pertaining to reservation in promotion in the Public Sector oil Companies.
- c) Details regarding grant of letter of intent to SC/ST candidates and how many amongst those could not be fructified owing to unavailability of land.
- d) Figures pertaining to allotment of Retail Outlets to SC/ST candidates since the change in Government policy w.e.f 2014.
- e) Drawbacks in post 2014 policy which mandates availability of land for setting up of operational Retail Outlets.
- f) Number of Retail outlets allotted to SC/ST candidates in creamy and remote locations respectively.

- g) Whether decision regarding change in policy pertaining to ownership of land for allotment of Retail Outlets for SCs/STs in 2014 was taken at Ministerial level or Board level.

4. The Committee expressed their displeasure over the underwhelming preparation with which the representatives of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had turned up to depose before the Committee. Hon'ble Chairperson directed the representatives of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and aforementioned Public Sector Oil Companies to carry out proper homework on the subject matter next time they are called upon to tender evidence before the Committee. It was also requested that the points on which further information is desired by the Committee may be sent within 15 days.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The sitting of the Committee then adjourned.

A copy of the verbatim proceedings has been kept on record.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES  
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES  
(2022-2023)**

**(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

**THIRTEENTH SITTING  
(15.12.2022)**

**MINUTES**

The Committee sat from 1000 hrs. to 1100 hrs. in Chairperson Chamber, Room No. 137, Third floor, Parliament House, New Delhi-110001

**PRESENT**

Shri Kirit Premjibhai Solanki - Chairperson

**MEMBERS**

**LOK SABHA**

2. Shri Girish Chandra
3. Shri Guman Singh Damor
4. Shri Anil Firojiya
5. Smt. Goddeti Madhavi
6. Smt. Pratima Mondal
7. Shri Upendra Singh Rawat
8. Shri Jagannath Sarkar
9. Shri Rebati Tripura

**RAJYA SABHA**

10. Smt. Kanta Kardam
11. Dr. V. Sivadasan
12. Dr. Sumer Singh Solanki

**SECRETARIAT**

- 4 Shri D.R. Shekhar, Joint Secretary
- 5 Shri P.C. Choulda, Director
- 6 Shri. V. K. Shailon, Deputy Secretary

At the outset, the Chairperson welcomed the Members of the Committee. The Committee then considered the draft report(s) on the following subjects:-

1. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Reservation of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions/Reserve Bank of India and credit facilities and other benefits being

provided by such Institutions/Banks to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes with special reference to State Bank of India".

2. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject
3. "Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Public Sector Undertaking with special reference to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited".
4. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject "Study of atrocity cases against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with respect to implementation of the Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 with special reference to cases related to withholding of pensions and retirement benefits of SC/ST Employees"

2. After due consideration, the Committee adopted the aforementioned Report(s) without any modification. The Committee also authorized the Chairperson to present the Report to both the Houses of Parliament during the ongoing Session.

The sitting of the Committee then adjourned.