

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3189

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

COOKING GAS IN RURAL AREAS

Dubey Shri Chandra Shekhar;Mahato Shri Bir Sing;Yadav Shri Giridhari

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

- (a) whether there is any Scheme to supply Cooking Gas in the rural areas of the country ;
- (b) if so, the number of villages State-wise and district-wise covered under this Scheme with special reference to Dhanbad in Jharkhand State ;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AYAR)

(a) : As on 1.7.2004, OMCs have commissioned 1,075 out of 1,429 LPG distributorships planned under Urban / Rural category and 569 out of 1,247 LPG distributorships planned under Rural category. Further, with a view to covering uncovered Blocks/Tehsils/Mandals, the Ministry have advised the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to introduce innovative steps for low income group customers such as introduction of 5 kg. cylinders, setting up of community kitchens in villages etc.

(b) to (d) : At present, 16 LPG distributors of OMCs are serving the customers in Dhanbad District of Jharkhand, of which 1 is operating in the urban-rural area.

LPG connections are available on demand throughout the country including in Jharkhand and it is expected that due to the various innovative steps being taken by OMCs, LPG availability in rural areas of Dhanbad District will be further increased. The details of villages covered State-wise & district-wise are available with the OMCs.