

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1501
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
JOINT VENTURE FOR RETAILING NATURAL GAS
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

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

- (a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) proposes a joint venture for retailing natural gas to household and automobiles;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the names of cities identified for the purpose and the investment to be incurred thereon ;
- (d) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has also proposed to double the refinery capacity of the Panipat Refinery; and
- (e) if so, the details alongwith the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has formed a Joint Venture `Green Gas Limited`(GGL) with GAIL for city gas distribution in Agra and Lucknow. IOC has made an equity advance of Rs. 7 crores to GGL.

IOC has also signed an MoU in August 2006 with M/s Green Eastern Energy Corporation Limited (GEECL) for distribution of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas in various cities of West Bengal, including for CNG retailing. The Joint Venture Agreement with GEECL is at formulation stage. CBM gas distribution network and CNG retailing operations are proposed to commence from Asansol, West Bengal.

(d) & (e): Yes, Sir. IOC has doubled the capacity of its Panipat refinery from 6 MMTPA to 12 MMTPA at a cost of Rs. 4300 crores.