

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2154
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2004
GAS AGENCIES AT BLOCK LEVEL
Rawat Prof. Rasa Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government had earlier proposed to set up a gas agency at every block level and then at the level of a fixed population;
- (b) if so, the achievements made so far in this regard ;
- (c) the time by which the gas agencies would be set up in the remaining areas particularly at the block level in the rural areas ; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had earlier carried out a feasibility survey of all Blocks on an all-India basis and the viable locations were included in earlier Marketing Plans for setting up LPG distributorships. As on 1.4.2004, 848 LPG distributorships are still pending for commissioning out of the 1246 locations planned exclusively in rural areas.

(c) & (d) : OMCs set up LPG distributorships at viable locations as per their commercial considerations and it is a continuous process. As the setting up of LPG distributorships involves identifying of a suitable location, land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances, it is not possible to indicate a specific time limit for setting up of agencies at Block level. With a view to covering the uncovered blocks/ tehsils / mandals, the Ministry has begun the process to advise the OMCs for innovations. The innovative steps for low income group customers include introduction of 5 kg. cylinders, setting up community kitchens in villages and sale of LPG cylinders through fair price shop dealers etc.