

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1259  
ANSWERED ON 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY, 2023

**VIABILITY OF RURAL GAS AGENCIES**

1259 Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

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

- (a) whether rural gas agencies have been established after 2018, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government is planning to make the rural gas agencies viable; and
- (c) the steps being taken to bridge the gap of number of clients between overlapping rural and urban agencies?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
(SHRI RAMESWAR TELI)

(a) Appointment of LPG distributorships by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) is a continuous process and locations for setting up of LPG distributorships are identified based on sale potential that makes them commercially viable. OMCs have commissioned 1784 new LPG distributorships during 01.04.2019 to 31.12. 2022, out of which 1722 LPG distributorships (96.5%) cater the rural areas.

(b) & (c) Under Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG distributorships(USG), LPG distributorships are classified based on different type of markets like, Sheheri, Rurban, Gramin and Durgam Kshetriya Vitrak (DKV) and refill ceiling limits are prescribed for each type of market. Only those locations are advertised by OMCs for commissioning of new LPG distributorships, which are commercially found viable during feasibility study.

The trading area for each distributorship is prescribed as per the market they are operating in by respective OMCs to avoid overlapping. Area of operation of LPG distributorships is demarcated at the time of commissioning in the "Distributorship Agreement" between OMCs and distributorship. OMCs undertake restructuring of distributorships based on extant restructuring guidelines independently.

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