GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO - 934

ANSWERED ON - 27/07/2026

PNG EXPANSION, LPG TRANSITION IMPROVEMENTS, AND STRATEGIC INCENTIVES

934 # SHRI RAJIB BHATTACHARJEE:
SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:
SHRI BRIJ LAL:
SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:
SHRI AMAR PAL MAURYA:
SHRI BABUBHAI JESANGBHAI DESAI:
SHRI JAGGESH:
SHRI CHUNNILAL GARASIYA:
SHRI RAJINDER GUPTA:

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

(a) whether the expansion of the National PNG Drive 2.0 accelerated the targeted gasification of residential schools, colleges and hostels in North India;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) the number of commercial kitchens that have switched from LPG to PNG since January;
(d) the total number of new domestic PNG connections provided during the special three-month accelerated approval framework period; and
(e) the specific criteria used by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to monitor the pricing model for priority PNG connections?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (e) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), in collaboration with City Gas Distribution (CGD) entities, launched the National PNG Drive 2.0 from 1st January 2026 to 30th June 2026. PNGRB has informed that the initiative aims to ensure optimal utilization of existing infrastructure, promote new connections and activate non-billed customers, with an overall objective to increase the usage of natural gas across the diverse user categories. Under the initiative, various measures have been implemented by the Government and authorized CGD entities, including:

i. Expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connectivity to households, commercial establishments and industries;
ii. Conversion of connected households into active billed consumers;
iii. Awareness campaigns and consumer outreach programmes;
iv. Coordination with State Governments and local authorities for expeditious statutory permissions; and

v. Implementation of consumer-friendly measures, including digital registration, simplified connection processes and promotional schemes offered by CGD entities.

During the drive period in the Northern India (covering the state of Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and UT of Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh), total of 268 residential schools, colleges and hostels have been converted from Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to PNG. Further, a total of 1976 commercial kitchens have been converted from LPG to PNG between January 2026 to June 2026.

The implementation of the PNG Drive led to a significance acceleration in PNG domestic connections across the country resulting in addition of 13,37,911 active PNG (D) connections from 1st January, 2026 to 30th June, 2026 including 5,09,312 active PNG (D) connections in Northern India.

The retail selling price (RSP) of PNG in any GA is determined by the respective CGD entity after considering cost of gas procured, state taxes, tariff and other components. However, the cost of gas and transportation tariff for the PNG (Domestic) segment are influenced by the Government's domestic gas allocation policy and the transportation tariff framework notified by PNGRB. For the PNG (Domestic) segment, the requirement is fully met through the allocation of domestic natural gas (APM/NAPM) at administered prices, which are subjected to a ceiling of USD 7 per MMBTU for FY 2026-27, and are significantly lower than the market price of natural gas. Further, with effect from Q3 of FY 2023-24, the Government has allocated domestic natural gas to the PNG (Domestic) segment equivalent to 105% of the actual PNG (Domestic) consumption in the previous quarter to facilitate expansion of household PNG connections across the country.

PNGRB has rationalised the Unified Tariff by reducing tariff zones from three to two and notified transportation tariffs of Rs. 54.00/MMBTU for Zone-1 (up to 300 km) and Rs. 110.02/MMBTU for Zone-2 (beyond 300 km), effective from 01.04.2026. Zone-1 tariff has been extended nationwide for CNG (T) and PNG (D), resulting in nearly 50% reduction in transportation charges for consumers beyond 300 km.

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