

transfer prices to refineries including North-East Refineries. Further, the reduction in Excise duty on Diesel from Rs. 4.60 per litre to Rs. 2.00 per litre has resulted into decline in realization to the North-East refineries due to reduction in Excise duty benefit which is presently equal to 50% of Excise duty on products for the North - East Refineries.

The details of the estimated annual impact of changes in Customs/Excise Duties structure on the North-East Refineries, as informed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL), are given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Particulars	Guwahati	Bongaigaon	Digboi	NRL	Total
Impact of reduction in Custom Duty on petroleum products	182	313	123	384	1,002
Impact of reduction in NE Excise duty benefit	101	158	50	262	571
Total impact on North East Refineries	283	471	173	646	1,573

North East Refineries have implemented a number of projects for their modernization, quality upgradation and efficiency improvements. These projects will improve the efficiency and thereby the profitability of the Refineries.

#### **Subsidies on cooking gas and kerosene**

3066. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to stop subsidies on cooking gas and kerosene from next year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is also considering to give cash subsidy to the States every month to support the poor;

(d) the details of subsidies paid by Government during the last three years on cooking gas and kerosene; and

(e) the details of subsidized gas used by the industries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) A proposal is under consideration with the Government to restrict the number of cylinders to be supplied at subsidized rate to registered customers of Domestic LPG. The proposal is intended to put a cap on the number of subsidized Domestic LPG cylinders, so as to reduce the burgeoning subsidy burden on account of Domestic LPG.

The Government is considering a proposal for direct transfer of subsidies on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG on a pilot basis to the intended beneficiaries. The Government has constituted a Task Force in February, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to recommend an implementable solution for direct transfer of subsidies on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG to the intended beneficiaries. The Task Force has submitted its Interim Report to the Government on 05.07.2011.

(d) The Government is providing subsidy of Rs. 0.82 per litre on PDS Kerosene and Rs.22.58 per cylinder of Domestic LPG from the fiscal budget under the 'PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG Subsidy Scheme, 2002' to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL). The details of subsidy paid on PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG from the fiscal budget during the last three years are given below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	PDS Kerosene	Domestic LPG
2008-09	974	1,714
2009-10	957	1,814
2010-11	930	1,974

In addition to the above fiscal subsidy, the OMCs have incurred under-recoveries on the sale of PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG during the last three years as given below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Total Under-recoveries*	
	PDS Kerosene	Domestic LPG
2008-09	28,225	17,600
2009-10	17,364	14,257
2010-11	19,484	21,772

\* Gross under-recoveries without considering oil bonds/cash assistance.

Under the burden sharing mechanism being followed, these under-recoveries are shared by the Government and the Public Sector oil companies.

(e) The OMCs have informed that they do not supply subsidized LPG to the industrial units.

#### **New blocks for ONGC**

3067. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has got new land for oil discoveries/explorations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) by when the production would start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) regime, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) was awarded 120 exploration blocks under eight rounds of New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) bidding concluded so far. Out of 120 exploration blocks, 46 are onland blocks, 30 are Shallow water blocks and 44 are Deepwater blocks.

ONGC is Operator in 108 exploration blocks and non-operator with other Consortium Partners in 12 exploration blocks.

(c) As on 01.07.2011, ONGC has made 19 hydrocarbon discoveries (Onland-6 and Offshore-13) from 8 NELP blocks awarded to ONGC as Operator. Out of 19 discoveries, five are oil and gas discoveries in the onland areas and remaining 14 (Offshore-13 and Onland-1) are gas