

DEORA APPROVES TRANSPARENT METHODOLOGY FOR SELECTION OF LPG DISTRIBUTORS THROUGH DRAW LOTS

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The Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas Shri Murli Deora has approved the proposal to introduce a transparent system of selection of distributors for LPG in the country through the draw of lots. This would be on the pattern of selection methodology successfully introduced under Rajiv Gandhi Gramin LPG Vitak (RGGLV). While approving the proposal Shri Deora has observed that this change would take care of allegations of malafide activity in selection. This would also expedite the process of establishing distributorships as in the present system a number of complaints are received against the successful candidates leading to delays in commissioning. The change in the procedure would help achieve faster progress in Government's endeavour to expand reach of LPG to uncovered areas.

Under the present system the eligible applicants are selected through documents and interviews which has been not the present selection system implemented by the officers of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) leads to a large number of complaints as well as litigations. A number of distributorships remains pending as the large number of unsuccessful candidates raise issues on the candidature of successful applicants.

The Minister has directed that a short list of the applicants be drawn up of candidates who fulfill minimum requirements as per the procedure of selection. The draw of lot would be held in presence of the representatives of public authorities. The process will also be video-graphed. It may be recalled that Shri Deora had last year approved Vision 2015 for augmenting petroleum products marketing infrastructure under which the LPG network is targeted to cover 75% of the population by 2015. The present LPG coverage extends to about 55% of the country's population. The necessary guidelines would be issued by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas to the Oil Marketing Companies soon.