

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1952
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30th July, 2026

EXPANSION OF PNG INFRASTRUCTURE

1952. SHRI B K PARTHASARATHI:

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री

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

- (a) the steps taken for expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) infrastructure across the country, including the criteria adopted for prioritisation of areas and the list of districts identified or prioritised for PNG expansion;
- (b) the number of States and Union Territories that have constituted Quick Response Teams (QRTs) or Task Forces, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government is monitoring the preparation and maintenance of databases of certified plumbers by the States and Union Territories for PNG deployment and maintenance, if so the details of the States and union Territories that have prepared such databases, State/UT-wise;
- (d) the details of the targets fixed for establishing new PNG connections and the number of connections achieved against such targets, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) whether the Government has identified any shortage of trained manpower for the expansion, operation and maintenance of PNG infrastructure, if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken to address such shortages, including skilling initiatives, certification programmes, industry partnerships and training targets?

ANSWER

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री
(श्री सुरेश गोपी)

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
(SHRI SURESH GOPI)

(a) to (e) Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections is part of the development of City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network, which inter alia include creation of pipeline infrastructure and other facilities for the supply of PNG to domestic, commercial and industrial units. This is being carried out by entities authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). After completion of 12/12A CGD bidding round, PNGRB has authorized entities for the development of CGD network in 309 Geographical Areas (GAs), covering the entire mainland area of the country. As on 31.05.2026, the authorized CGD entities have provided 1,70,69,775 PNG (D) connections across the country against the Minimum Work Programme (MWP) targets of 12,65,41,862 PNG (D) connections to be achieved by 2034. CGD infrastructure rollout is undertaken by the authorized entities in accordance with the authorization granted by PNGRB and the approved project plan. The State/UT wise PNG (D) connections progress, as on 31.05.2026, is at **Annexure-I**.

PNGRB, in collaboration with 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 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.

The Government has notified a comprehensive control order dated 24.03.2026 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to facilitate time-bound expansion of pipeline infrastructure across the country, especially CGD. The Order provides a uniform framework for grant of right of way (RoW) and permissions by mandating strict timelines, enabling deemed approvals in case of delays, and prohibiting imposition of unauthorized charges by public authorities. It also addresses access issues in residential and private areas by ensuring non-discriminatory and time-bound permissions, thereby removing key bottlenecks in pipeline laying. In pursuance thereof, 19 States/UTs have appointed Nodal Officers.

As per the available information, 3 states namely Assam, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have maintained and shared the database of ITI plumbers with CGD entities through their education institutes. Further, the Ministry is taking proactive measures to augment the availability of skilled manpower required for expansion, operation and maintenance of PNG infrastructure. These include:

- i. Training of plumbers through the Skill Development Council and authorized CGD entities;
- ii. Master Trainer Orientation Programme on CGD in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Government of Maharashtra, under which around 100 Master Trainers have been trained with a target of training about 100 plumbers by each Master Trainer;
- iii. Engagement of trained fitters/plumbers based on lists shared by MSDE; and
- iv. Capacity-building and skill development programmes being conducted by individual CGD entities for developing skilled plumbers required for PNG network expansion and maintenance.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1952 TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026 REGARDING EXPANSION OF PNG INFRASTRUCTURE.

Progress of Domestic PNG Connections State Wise Data - As on 31.05.2026

S. No.	State/UT	Domestic PNG Connections (Nos.)	
		MWP Target	Achievements
1	Andhra Pradesh	83,61,290	2,98,111
2	Arunachal Pradesh	19,000	-
3	Assam	20,37,888	78,455
4	Bihar	38,41,421	3,29,808
5	Chandigarh	1,75,000	34,175
6	Chhattisgarh	41,91,968	20,845
7	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3,823	15,194
8	Daman and Diu	48,019	5,868
9	Delhi	2,37,000	19,60,727
10	Goa	17,180	20,455
11	Gujarat	47,53,332	39,08,499
12	Haryana	24,80,753	6,03,123
13	Himachal Pradesh	7,79,549	14,359
14	Jharkhand	18,31,574	1,96,415
15	Karnataka	66,25,577	6,11,203
16	Kerala	45,77,319	1,59,687
17	Madhya Pradesh	59,71,423	3,36,953
18	Maharashtra	1,17,23,476	47,42,692
19	Manipur	1,00,439	-
20	Meghalaya	3,56,000	-
21	Mizoram	2,91,562	-
22	Nagaland	3,56,589	-
23	Odisha	9,09,582	1,90,551
24	Puducherry	5,31,714	121
25	Punjab	39,42,225	1,43,031
26	Rajasthan	87,09,653	5,44,070
27	Sikkim	1,77,399	-
28	Tamil Nadu	2,14,80,940	1,40,756
29	Telangana	39,17,162	2,64,701
30	Tripura	2,39,314	71,344
31	UT of Jammu & Kashmir	14,79,532	-
32	UT of Ladakh	3,624	-
33	Uttar Pradesh	1,05,23,300	23,06,333
34	Uttarakhand	12,38,335	95,496
35	West Bengal	1,46,08,899	1,62,123
Grand Total		12,65,41,862	1,72,55,095

(source: PNGRB) (including cases covered under sub-judice, under dispute and pending cases)
