

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) As on date, only one general category candidate is working in the post of Private Secretary. This post is reserved for Scheduled Caste category, but due to non-availability of an eligible candidate, it has been filled up by a general candidate on an ad-hoc basis.

(b) This post will be filled up by promotion of a reserve category candidate as soon as an eligible departmental candidate belonging to SC/ST category becomes available.

Short Supply of LPG in Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad

7847. SHRI HARPAL SINGH PANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been short supply of LPG in the districts of Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad, especially in Kairana, Barot, Shamli and Trans Hindon areas during the last six months and consumers are not getting their gas cylinders even after two to three weeks of placing the order; and

(b) if so, the reasons for short supply and/or delayed supply and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to remove the shortage and delay in gas supply in Western U.P. and especially in the above mentioned areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). A shortage in supply of LPG refills had developed temporarily in the districts of Muzaffar Nagar, Meerut and Ghaziabad on account of increase in demand during the winter and shortfall in the bulk availability of LPG, apart from transportation problems. With the measures already taken, the situation has since improved.

Efforts are being made to maximise LPG availability. The situation is being closely monitored with a view to ensuring regular supplies to the consumers.

LPG Quota For MPs.

7848. SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guidelines have been laid down for the issue of L.P.G. connections from M.Ps. quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any instructions have been issued for quick delivery of letters to consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some specific instances of delayed delivery of LPG sanction letters to the consumers or non-delivery by the IOC have come to his notice; and

(f) if so, the number of such instances reported during the last three months and the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). 24 LPG connections can be released on priority basis in a year on the recommendations of each Member of Parliament. Such requests are consolidated and forwarded by this Ministry to the oil companies for release of LPG connections on priority basis. Priority letters are issued to the concerned individuals by Regional/Area Offices of the oil companies by registered A.D. letters. Oil companies have issued instructions to their Regional/Area Offices for issuance of such letters without delay.