

**Criteria for Fixation of Royalty on
Crude Oil**

*121. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing criteria for the fixation of royalty on crude oil; and

(b) whether Government propose to revise the criteria taking into account the views of the oil production States?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The rate of royalty is fixed after taking into account several considerations such as the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, the need to provide reasonable revenue to the State where oil is produced, the extent to which it would add to the prices of petroleum products, the views of the concerned State Government, etc.

(b) The rate of royalty is under review in consultation with the State Governments

[*Translation*]

**Use of Domestic LPG Cylinders by
Commercial and Industrial Units**

1105. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRAMUNDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had increased the price of LPG cylinders being supplied to industries, hotels and restaurants;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that as a result of this increase in price, LPG cylinders meant for domestic use, are being misutilised in commercial and industrial establishments; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed by Government to check malpractices arising out of the differential prices of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The possibility of unauthorised diversion of LPG cylinders meant for domestic consumers to commercial customers by unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out. The following steps have been taken by the oil industry to check this malpractice:

(i) Identification of non-domestic consumers;

(ii) Blue-banding of cylinders supplied to non-domestic consumers;

(iii) Organising random inspections of distributors' and users' premises by field staff;

(iv) Supply of cylinders of different size for non-domestic users in a phased manner;

(v) Maintenance of separate registers by distributors for domestic and non-domestic users;

(vi) Reallocation of customers from distributors indulging in malpractices to other distributors;

(vii) Placement of separate indents by distributors for domestic and non-domestic refills;

(viii) Inspection by officers of oil companies at various levels;

(ix) Issuance of the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 by the Government, which empowers designated

officials for entry, search and seizure in cases where unauthorised diversion takes place; and

(x) Introduction of Domestic Gas Consumer Cards in a phased manner.

[English]

Reservations of SC/ST in Railways

1106. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total backlog of the reserved posts meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as on date, cadre-wise and zone-wise in Indian Railways;

(b) the reasons therefor?

(c) whether any action plan to wipe out

the backlog especially in higher cadre of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been prepared; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Railway Employees

1107. SHRI A. VJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state the total number of employees in Railways, Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The total number of employees in Railways, Zone-wise, as on 31.3.89, is as under:

| <i>Sl. No.</i> | <i>Zone</i> | <i>Number of employees</i> |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Central | 218, 085 |
| 2. | Estern | 226, 442 |
| 3 | Northen | 229, 636 |
| 4. | North Eastern | 107, 614 |
| 5. | Northeast Frontier | 84, 226 |
| 6. | Southern | 144, 219 |
| 7. | South Central | 129,289 |
| 8. | South Eastern | 209, 928 |
| 9. | Western | 209,261 |
| | Total | 1,558,693 |