

(b) if not, the stations at which they are not being marketed;

(c) the number of companies manufacturing these stoves; and

(d) is there any request from any LPG distributors association to manufacture/or sell Nutan stoves; and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to limited availability, these stoves are marketed in whole of Delhi, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Haryana, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and parts of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal only.

(c) Presently only two companies are manufacturing these stoves. In order to maximise production to meet the demand in the country, National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), New Delhi, is setting up a number of units in different locations of the country for production of stoves in the small scale sector as per the Government policy.

(d) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is not aware of any such request but the LPG distributors are, however, authorised to sell Nutan stoves in approved markets.

Ceiling on the Sale of LPG Refills

4281. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any ceiling on the sale of LPG Refills by the LPG distributors and if so, the limit fixed for different cities and towns and the basis on which the same is fixed;

(b) number of distributors who have reached the ceiling limit and when the others are going to be brought to the ceiling level; and

(c) whether there is any representation about the revision of ceiling limit from the LPG distributors Federation and if so, the action taken on the same?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Taking into account the different working conditions and the cost of operations in different areas, the ceiling as to the maximum number of refills of cylinders that a distributor would be allowed to handle per month has been fixed as given below:

Market	Number of refills per month
Bombay	6,000
Delhi	4,000
Other cities with population over 10 lakhs	3,500
Cities with population between 2 lakhs and 10 lakhs	3,000
Other places	2,500

Co-operative Societies have been exempted from these ceilings.

(b) The number of LPG distributors/sub-distributors who have reached the above ceiling limit is reported to be 120. It would be possible to release additional new connections to the remaining distributors so as to bring them up to the ceiling level only after product availability position improves.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is under consideration.

Rationalisation of Areas of LPG Distributors

4282. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move by Government to rationalise the areas of