

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3465

ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005

SUPPLY OF UNEWR WEIGHT LPG CYLINDERS

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that gas cylinders being supplied to the consumers contain less gas than the prescribed weight ;
- (b) if so, whether Government is formulating any scheme to introduce new cylinder seal to check the theft of gas with a view to supplying full weight gas cylinders to the consumers ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (d) the other steps the Government proposes to take to check such theft in future ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ ( SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR )

(a) to (d) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 31 cases of supply of underweight cylinders to consumers by their LPG distributors during the period, April-October 2005. The erring distributors have been penalized by OMCs in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Whenever OMCs receive complaints regarding the supply of underweight cylinders, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) concerned in accordance with the provisions of the LPG Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). In addition to the action taken by OMCs, the Weight and Measures Departments of the State/UT initiate legal action against those believed to be culpable.

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC), as a tamper evident sealing system for LPG cylinders with a view to supplying correct weight of LPG to the consumers. PVC seals are difficult to duplicate, shrink at high temperature and require special technical expertise to manufacture. There is no proposal to replace the PVC seals in use.