

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:88
ANSWERED ON:02.07.2009
SHORTAGE OF LPG DISTRIBUTORS
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the acute short supply of cooking fuel/LPG in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, whether shortage of LPG distributors is one of the main reasons for the erratic supply; (
- (c) whether the Government is proposing to ensure that at least one gas distributor service every ten thousand ration card holders;and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) to (d) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present,there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the State of Maharashtra and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

As on 01.06.2009,OMCs are serving 140.34 lakh LPG customers through 999 LPG distributorships in the State of Maharashtra, covering about 71.7 % of the estimated population.There is no proposal to link the setting up of LPG distributorship to the number of ration card holders.However, identification of new locations for opening new distributorships and thereafter action for setting up new distributorships is an ongoing continuous process.OMCs have finalized a common industry marketing plan covering 1340 locations in the country, including 112 in the State of Maharashtra for setting up of new LPG distributorships, mainly in rural and urban-rural (semi-urban) locations.