

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3183  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2010  
SALE OF SMALL CYLINDERS  
Sardinha Shri Francisco

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that domestic LPG is transferred in 1-2 Kg. small cylinders illegally in various States such as Delhi, Bihar and West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop this activity ?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): While there have been instances of supply of partially used cylinders/under-weight cylinders/ pilfering product from LPG cylinders in the country, no case of filling gas in small cylinders by the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has been reported.

Surprise Quality Control Checks which includes weighing of cylinders are carried out at the distributors godown as well as enroute weight checking of filled cylinders available in delivery vehicle is being done by the field officers to check pilferage/presence of any underweight cylinders. The distributors have also been instructed to satisfy the customers about correct weight of cylinder by weighing them, to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

OMCs have reported that based on the established complaints of supply of partially used cylinder/underweight cylinders/ pilfering product by LPG distributors, action has been taken in 49 cases in the country including 7 cases in Delhi and 1 in the State of West Bengal during the last year and April – June 2010 as per provisions of MDG / Distributorship Agreement.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against blackmarketing of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States / UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found supplying under-weight LPG cylinders.