

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:601

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011

FAKE UNDER WEIGHT LPG CYLINDERS

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

- (a) the number of complaints regarding fake/duplicate and adulterated/under-weight LPG cylinders received by the Government during the year 2009-2010 and current year;
- (b) whether the incidents of leakage of LPG cylinders are also on the rise in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to have a mechanism to address the said complaints;
- (d) if so, the details thereof ; and
- (e) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not reported instances of large scale circulation of fake LPG cylinders in the country. However, there have been some instances when spurious cylinders were detected by the OMCs at the distributors' premises. During the year 2009-10 and April – December, 2010, OMCs have detected 1335 number of spurious cylinders in the country.

OMCs are procuring LPG cylinders from cylinder manufacturers who are approved by the Oil Industry Technical Committee (OITC) and have valid manufacturing licences from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the Chief Controller of Explosives (CCOE). Strict control is exercised by BIS over the manufacturing process. LPG cylinders procured by OMCs meet the required quality standards.

LPG cylinders received from distributors/ transporters at the bottling plants are mandatorily checked for quality and genuineness to avoid the entry of fake and outlived cylinders in circulation. On detection of sub-standard / spurious cylinders, these are confiscated and thereafter de-shaped / crushed to prevent their re-entry into circulation.

Apart from the legal action which could be taken against any supplier of spurious LPG equipment, in case any distributor is found in possession of spurious equipment or inducts such equipment in the distribution system, Marketing Discipline Guidelines provide, inter-alia, for confiscation of equipment, imposition of fine and recovery at penal rates for the first and second offences and termination of distributorship in the event of a third offence.

(b) to (e): Every effort is made by OMCs in their bottling plant to prevent leaky cylinders in circulation in the market. In case a leaky cylinder is found at any stage of distribution, the distributor seizes the cylinder and return to the bottling plant for remedial action.

OMCs have set up Emergency Service Cell to attend the customer complaint on leakage of LPG cylinder. In case any complaint of leakage from the LPG cylinders while in use by the customer is received, the same is attended free of charge by the distributor/ Emergency Service Cell on priority.