

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1324

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2011

SHORTAGE OF LPG CYLINDERS

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Kaswan Shri Ram Singh;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Ramasubbu Shri S.;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Singh Shri Bhupendra ;Veljibhai Jat Poonamben

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of LPG cylinders in the country including Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many LPG retail outlets in the country are not booking refill cylinders before 21 days of earlier cylinder delivery ;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has issued any directions to the distributors of LPG outlets in this regard and any action is proposed against the erring outlets ;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken to address the inconvenience caused to consumers ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country 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.

OMCs have reported that at present, while there is no backlog in LPG supplies in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, there is a backlog of a few days in LPG supplies in few States including Tamil Nadu due to a combination of factors viz., disruption in movement of bulk LPG, shortage of bulk LPG due to flash strike by Tank Truck crew, unseasonal rains etc. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours. The backlog is expected to be cleared early.

(c) to (g): OMCs do not have any supply constraints and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

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

In addition to the normal system of refill booking, customers can now book their refills directly with the concerned OMCs through Short Messaging Service (SMS) booking and Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) booking. These system accept request for refill booking as and when done by the customers.