

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3498  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011  
IRREGULARITIES BY GAS AGENCY  
Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Paswan Shri Kamlesh

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

- (a) whether complaints regarding black marketing and underweight LPG cylinders in the gas agencies of Deoria area of Uttar Pradesh have been received by the Government ;
- (b) if so, the details and the nature of complaints received in this regard ;
- (c) whether the officers of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are favouring the guilty persons concerned and have allowed re-opening of the gas agencies indulging in such corrupt practices;
- (d) if so, the details of the inquiry conducted or punitive action taken against the officers concerned of the OMCs ; and
- (e) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard ?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) : A complaint was received from District Supply Officer (DSO), Deoria against M/s. Barhaj Gas Service, an LPG distributorship of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) at Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh for various irregularities such as supply of under-weight cylinders, overcharging, unauthorized release of new LPG connections and out-of-turn delivery of refill cylinders. Also, an FIR has been lodged against the distributor on 05.07.2011 at Barhaj Police Station and the godown of the distributorship was sealed on the same day. Further, on 06.07.2011, a joint inventory on equipment was carried out by a team of officers comprising Area Manager (LPG-Sales), IOC, Gorakhpur, Civil Supplies Department and Weight & Measures Department, in which the cylinders did not reveal any discrepancy compared to the stock register.

Supplies to the said distributorship have been suspended since 09.07.2011, on the basis of the letter received from District Supply Officer (DSO), Deoria, on 08.07.2011 and an explanation was called for from the distributor on 09.07.2011 for the irregularities committed. The distributor submitted his reply on 18.07.2011.

The District Magistrate (DM), Deoria advised IOC that the supplies to the distributor should be resumed, keeping in view the public inconvenience in getting refills. In the meantime, the proprietor of the distributorship filed a W.P. No. 41617/2011 before the Hon'ble High Court of Allahabad against the suspension of sales & supplies. Hon'ble High Court disposed off the W.P. on 23.08.2011 by directing the DSO to complete the enquiry within a period of two weeks from the date of receipt of certified copy of the order. Subsequently, the DSO passed an order dated 07.09.2011, stating that no proceedings are pending with them and advised IOC to take appropriate action.

Accordingly, the explanation given by the subject distributor as well as the order of DSO, Deoria were examined by IOC and the suspension was revoked on 24.10.2011.

Once the District Administration furnishes the complete details of inspection/relevant documents to IOC, further necessary action as per the guidelines shall be taken in the matter.

(d) & (e) : Do not arise in view of the above.