

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:281
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
LPG PORTAL
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of various irregularities in the supply of LPG refills to the consumers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced or proposes to introduce a LPG portal, so as to curb the growing irregularities in the supply of cooking gas cylinders to consumers and bring transparency in the system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) to (d) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 281 BY SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI TO BE ANSWERED ON 30TH AUGUST, 2012 REGARDING LPG PORTAL.

(a) & (b) : In order to check malpractices / irregularities in the supply of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has brought out the "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provide for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in malpractices / irregularities in the supply of LPG.

Whenever Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) receive complaints relating to refill supplies 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).

OMCs have introduced different colours for domestic and non-domestic LPG cylinders for controlling the malpractices / irregularities in the supply of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

Further, joint inspections/ raids are conducted by the officers of OMCs in coordination with State Government officials to arrest the menace of malpractices / irregularities in the supply of domestic LPG and cases are filed by the District Administration against the culprits under various provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and other relevant Acts.

Government has issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is prohibited. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has been sought to report any irregularity/ malpractice to the OMCs.

Based on the established cases of malpractices / irregularities in the supply of domestic LPG, action has been taken in 5389 cases against the erring LPG distributors in the country during the last three years and in the period from April 2012 to June 2012 under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) / Distributorship Agreement (DA) by the Oil Marketing Companies.

(c) : Yes, Madam. LPG Transparency Portal was launched on 22.06.2012.

(d) : To achieve efficiency, transparency and improve the business processes in the LPG supply chain, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMC) namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have hosted their transparency portals on their individual corporate websites. The portals provide details of each customer and supply details such as number of cylinders supplied, dates of supply as well as the indicative subsidy amount for the cylinders supplied. The portal offers quick search options to sort information based on consumer number/ name, facility to surrender LPG connection, rate the distributor, lodge a complaint, view the date of refill booking, cash memo data and date of deliveries etc.

The Portal empowers the consumers and civil society to verify and seek information or highlight discrepancies and irregularities, under one roof and is expected to become a powerful social audit mechanism preventing misuse of subsidized LPG cylinders.