

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2013  
EXPANSION OF LPG NETWORK  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have put on hold the proposal for expansion of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) network by appointing several thousand distributors across the country;
- (b) if so, the total number of LPG distributors to be appointed and the reasons for withholding the expansion;
- (c) whether the OMCs have collected any deposit from prospective distributors;
- (d) if so, the steps taken for refunding their money;
- (e) whether the existing distributors are having any ceiling limit of consumers; and
- (f) if so, the number of distributors having LPG customers over and above the ceiling limit and steps taken for efficient customer service by the OMCs ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SMT PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) The 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 advertisement for 3294 (IOC-1642, BPCL-883 & HPCL-769) Regular distributorships released from 30.12.2012 to 06.01.2013 was kept in abeyance and subsequently cancelled in order to review the criteria for opening of new LPG distributorships.

Recently OMCs have released advertisement for appointment of 2794 Regular Distributorships on account of restructuring identified on industry basis as per the revised methodology.

(c) & (d) Wherever the applications were received against the advertisement, which was kept in abeyance, instructions were given by OMCs to the field to return the applications along- with the fees, if any, to the respective applicants

(e) & (f) The refill ceiling limit for distributors depends upon the type of market. The revised Refill Ceiling is as under :-

Type of Market	Monthly Refill Ceiling
Town with < 10 lacs population	8800
Population 10 to 20 lacs	11000
Population 20 to 40 lacs	13200
Population > 40 lacs	16500

Based on the domestic LPG refill sales for the year 2012-13, there are 2758 (IOC-1312, BPCL-764 & HPCL-682) distributorships operating above the refill ceiling limit of the respective market.

Some of steps taken by OMCs to improve customer service are at Annexure-I