

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2063

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016

LPG Coverage Ratio

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal to increase LPG coverage ratio to cover all rural/urban poor household and to appoint distributors at Panchayat/village level in proportion to target fixed in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with registered LPG consumers in the country along with new LPG connections/LPG gas agencies provided/target set to provide LPG to all, State/UT-wise including Karnataka;
- (c) the number of consumers which are in waiting list to get the LPG connections in the country during the last three years and the current year along with the steps taken/being taken to clear the waiting list in a time bound manner, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (d) whether there is mismatch between the demand and supply/shortage of LPG across the country and if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to overcome the situation, State/UT-wise including Madhya Pradesh;
- (e) whether cases of black marketing of unused cylinders from yearly consumer quota and diversion of LPG cylinders for commercial purpose such as hotel and restaurant, overcharging from LPG godown, underweight/pilferage of gas from cylinders have been noticed by the Government during the said period;
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with number of such cases identified against authorised dealers/officials involved therein and the action taken under marketing discipline guidelines including issue of warning and cancellation of distributorship if any, during the said period; and
- (g) the efforts made by the Government to inform the delivery of LPG cylinders to consumers through messaging and to digitalise the tracking and movement of LPG cylinders from distribution agencies to curb such irregularities, State/UT/Oil Marketing Companies-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

- (a) & (b) The Government with a view to increase LPG coverage to 75% by 2019 and to provide LPG connections to poor household, has launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY). Under PMUY, 5 crore new LPG connections over a period of three years starting from 2016-17 to BPL households identified through SECC data, are released. In order to ensure availability and accessibility of LPG, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) appoint new LPG distributors based on market feasibility. Currently selection and commissioning of new distributors is underway in more than 2300 locations. Further advertisement for 400 locations each in the States of UP and Odisha has been released by OMCs. State/UT-wise details of registered active domestic LPG consumers/new gas connection released in the current Financial Year and LPG distributorship are at Annexure-I.
- (c) The States/UTs wise details of waiting list for the current year as on 01.10.2016 are at Annexure-II. Release of LPG connections is a continuous process. LPG distributors are under instruction to release new connections on demand and, if any waiting list arises, liquidate the same within seven days.
- (d) Assessment of requirement of LPG (domestic/commercial) in the country including state of Madhya Pradesh is made by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on annual basis for planning the imports as indigenous production of LPG is less than the demand. The projected demand is monitored on a regular basis and necessary changes in the projections are made based on the prevailing sales trend, change in policies or any other factor which may influence the demand. Action is taken accordingly to meet any fluctuation in demand of LPG due to such factors.
- (e) & (f) OMCs carry out regular surprise inspections at distributors premises, conduct refill audits, surprise checks at customers premises, en-route checking of delivery vehicles etc. , to check blackmarketing and pilferage of cylinders. During 2015-16, the established cases of malpractice/irregularities including overcharging, underweight/pilferage of LPG cylinders were 2633. Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies(OMCs) take punitive action under the prevailing Marketing Discipline Guidelines(MDG) and the Distributorship Agreement against LPG distributors in all established cases of irregularities.
- (g) SMSs are sent to the LPG consumers at the time of booking, cash memo generation and delivery of cylinders. Further, HPCL had launched Smart Refill Delivery Management on Pilot basis through Mobile application 'Ezy Gas'. The advantages/features of the application are :
  1. Delivery of Refill Cylinder to right consumer
  2. Delivery of Refill Cylinder at right place at right time.
  3. Options to the consumers to pay for the refill using cash or credit Card/Debit Card at the time of delivery at their door step. (E-Wallets to be integrated)
  4. On the spot Delivery confirmation in the central system of HPCL as delivery happens
  5. Near real time display of all delivery related information at the distributorship through a dashboard, providing much needed control of distributors on delivery process.