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Title: Need to streamline the procedure and distribution of LPG cylinder and new LPG connections in Kannur Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala.

SHRI K. SUDHAKARAN (KANNUR): I would like to draw the attention of this august House towards the grievances of the people of Kannur regarding the scarcity of cooking gas. Though being an essential commodity, the heavy scandal taking place in Cooking gas distribution is left unchecked by the Government. The consumers are suffering for want of cooking gas, as they have to wait for 45 to 70 days for getting a refilled gas cylinder. Today people in my Parliamentary Constituency Kannur are drastically affected by the dictatorship approach of the gas distributors of Kerala. Even consumers who have booked for a cylinder in December 2011 has not got his refill till date. In my district Kannur I understand that there are around 39 gas agencies functioning. Though, it is stated that gas distribution is free of transportation cost upto 5 kms, it is a normal practice that a minimum of Rs. 25 is charged for delivering the gas cylinder to the consumers. A major portion of the gas allocation are diverted for commercial purpose on the sole discretion of the gas agencies, thus creating artificial scarcity. Some agencies insist the consumers to purchase pressure cooker, gas stoves etc. to make them eligible for a new gas connections, thus minting money by all means. Such activities have to be stopped immediately. The Government has to take concrete punitive actions on such distributors, by just not putting it on papers. This is the only way proper checks can be done on the black marketing of cooking gas cylinders. Everyday, the number of consumers are increasing in the country whereas no concrete measures are taken to check the irregularities takes place in this business. I would urge the Government to take note of this grievance seriously and issue proper directions immediately to put a permanent mechanism in distribution of cooking gas.