

MR. SPEAKER: I don't think it arises.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister. He says, he has no material.

(Interruptions)

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: Nobody can escape. . . .

(Interruptions)

एक ज्ञानकीय सक्षय : हिन्दी में ।

श्री हेमवती नन्वन बहुगुणा : कोई भी मिनिस्टर पब्लिक सेक्टर की किसी भी चीज को इस ह. उस से बचा नहीं सकता, छिपा नहीं सकता है। और हमारा जो छिपाने का कोई काम ही नहीं है। लेकिन इस सारे मामले में इस सरकार के आने से पहले आधे से ज्यादा पेमेंट तक हो चुका था। ला डिपार्टमेंट ने हमको कहा कि अगर आप अब इसका एग्जिमेंट तोड़ते हैं, तो आप पर जुर्माना लगेगा। इसलिए हम इस बारे में दृढ़ कर रहे हैं। फायदा किस किस को पहुंचा है, इस की जानकारी मेरे पास नहीं है।

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 753. Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Question No. 753.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He says, he has no material.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, Order order. Do not record. Dr. Pandit has put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, he says he has no material. It is upto to him to say.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bahuguna, he wants to know whether you would hold an enquiry into the matter.

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: I will refer this matter to the Deputy Prime Minister (Finance) because he would really be able to say. . . .

(Interruptions)**

Complaints regarding Lesser Quantity of L.P.G. in Cylinders

*753. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increasing number of complaints are being received regarding lesser quantity of LPG in the gas cylinders supplied to the consumers;

(b) if so, which is the source at which the shortfall originates; and

(c) whether the Design and Engineering Department of TI Cycles of India, Madras have invented a simple device to measure the LPG cylinder?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) to (c). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Complaint Cell of the Ministry has received five complaints on alleged delivery of under weight cylinders by the oil companies during the first three months of 1979. These and other complaints received by the Oil Companies are enquired into for taking remedial action.

(b) The gas cylinders are filled at the bottling plants on automatic as

well as non-automatic machines. The Directorate of Weights and Measures of the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Co-operation check and stamp these machines at regular intervals. Random checks are also made of the cylinders before being delivered to the transporters. The under-filled cylinders, if any, are segregated and only cylinders of the correct weight and delivered to the transporters from the bottling plants. Random checks are also made at the show rooms and godowns of the dealers at the time of the delivery by the dealers.

In spite of all these precautions a few cases of shortfall in cylinder weight can occur during handling/transportation of the cylinders. Any complaints of this nature are promptly looked into and remedial action taken as necessary.

(c) M/s. T. I. Cycles of India, Madras have not so far approached the Government with their invented device to measure the contents of LPG cylinders.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:
The reply is not complete. I asked whether there is an increase in the number of such complaints. In the statement it is only stated that during the last three months five cases have come. Will the hon. Minister let this house know how many cases were there last year and whether there is an increase in the number of such cases?

From the statement it is very clear that there are two points from where less weight cylinders can be supplied to the consumer. This is a fraud on the consumer, a cheating.

The entire system has been given here and there are two check points. One is mentioned as—the Directorate of Weights and Measures staff comes and weights. There are two types of filling machines—automatic and non-automatic. What is the experience of the Minister upto now as to what is

the number of incidents where non-automatic type has not been filling the cylinders correctly? My second point is about the random check. How many incidents are there where it has been found that the cylinder was of less weight?

SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA: My enquiries reveal that it is not at the filling point that pilferage takes place. Sometimes pilferage takes place during transportation or delivery. It just happens sometimes that transporter bringing say 500 cylinders leaves two or three on the way side dhaba or hotel. They use it for two or three days. Another man following picks them up and gives the one after a day. This type of complaint is there. This has been detected.

I am saying it is a matter of shame that we should have this type of thing happening in the country and we are not able to check it. But the hard fact is the length and breadth of the country and the roads on which it passes through trucks. The filling is not defective.

The second point is, sometimes the delivery man makes mischief and delivers it to someone instead of another man. Later on this very thing is taken to another man after two or three days, and some money is charged. I tried to examine it in the whole year 1978. The total number of complaints January to March were 10, April to June 5, July to September 6, October to December 11, this is the trend of complaints. But out of nearly 3 million subscribers, the complaint either is due to a type of helplessness or lethargy or refusal.

I have issued orders, not to-day much before this question came to the local organisations that the oil companies must check these sometimes on the road, sometimes in the delivery

through the delivery man and sometimes in the stocks itself so that this type of thing does not happen I will take every possible care to prove equal to the expectation of the hon Member But human failures and failings are bound to be there

DR VASANT KUMAR PANDIT Messrs TI Cycles Ltd have invented a machine which the consumers could put at their own place Will the Department find out the veracity of the claim made about this instrument? If any consumer wants to instal it, then the Government cannot thereafter say "we have not authorised this machine" Have they come across any other such gadget?

SHRI H N BAHUGUNA I will certainly go into it

DR SUSHILA NAYAR There are some suppliers who bring a weighing mechanism so that the housewife can weigh the cylinder to check whether it is of the right weight Other do not do it Will the Minister please see to it that every agency makes its man carry this weighing apparatus and also inform the public as to the weight to be expected so that they can check it up for themselves?

SHRI H N BAHUGUNA The weight of the cylinder is engraved on the cylinder itself The weight of the gas is 14.5 to 15 kg So, by adding two readings they can get the total weight So far as the carrying of the weighing machine is concerned

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU Spring balance

SHRI H N BAHUGUNA I will certainly go into that

SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR N PATIL The business of the gas agencies is prospering Since there is shortage, many malpractices have crept in Many a time the consumer is getting the cylinder directly from the shop for a consideration I thus way, the

agents are getting Rs 200 to 300 When such complaints are received, will the Minister take drastic action against them?

SHRI H N BAHUGUNA Supplying a cylinder to the consumer direct from the store, and not delivering it at his residence, is an illegal practice If such a complaint comes, the agency will have to be terminated

दुटिपूर्ण एल० पी० जी० सिलिण्डरों की सप्लाई

* 747. श्री राजेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा : क्या पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है कि कुछ गैस एजेंसियां महानगरों में दुटिपूर्ण एल०पी०जी० सिलिण्डरों की सप्लाई कर रही हैं, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप दुर्घटनाएं आजकल एक सामान्य बात हो गई हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसे रोकने के लिए सरकार ने क्या कार्यवाही की है, और

(ग) क्या इससे लिए उत्तरदायी एजेंसियों के लाइसेंस रद्द करने जैसी कार्यवाही करने का सरकार का विचार है ?

पेट्रोलियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री हेमवती नन्दन बहुगुणा) : (क) यह कहना सही नहीं होगा कि महानगरों में सप्लाई की जा रही खराब एल०पी०जी० सिलिण्डरों के कारण आजकल दुर्घटना बहुत अधिक हो गई हैं।

(ख) सिलिण्डरों और बाल्वा का उत्पादन भारतीय मानक संस्थान द्वारा निर्धारित विनिर्देशन के अनुसार किया जाता है। भारतीय बिस्कोटक अधिनियम, 1934 के अन्तर्गत बनाये गये गैस सिलिण्डर नियम 1940