

January, 2008 to December, 2008. Action against the erring distributors were taken as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/ Distributorship Agreement. Further, 828 motorists indulging in misuse of domestic LPG in their vehicles have also been caught during the period January, 2008 to December, 2008 by the State Transport Authorities. The Company-wise details are available with the Director (Marketing) of OMCs concerned.

In order to stop blackmarketing/ diversion of domestic LPG cylinders, the Government has enacted "Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000" and formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2001" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors indulging in diversion/ blackmarketing of LPG.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints, these are investigated and if the complaint is established, suitable action is taken against the LPG distributor(s) in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG). MDG provides for following action against the distributor:-

- Fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG diverted at commercial rates for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

In addition to the action taken by the OMCs, State Governments are empowered under the LPG (Regulation of Supply & Distribution) Order, 2000 promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to take action against blackmarketing/diversion of domestic LPG. Similarly, the Weights and Measures Departments of the States / UTs initiate legal action against those LPG distributors found blackmarketing/diversion of LPG cylinders. The State Governments have been alerted from time to time to take steps against the blackmarketing/diversion of domestic cylinders for unauthorized usage.

Government have issued advertisements cautioning the public that use of domestic LPG for non-domestic purposes is illegal, dangerous and against national interest. Through these advertisements, cooperation of the general public has also been sought to report any irregularity / malpractice to the OMCs.

The officials of OMCs carry out random checks at distributors godowns, delivery points, as well as en-route to ensure that no misuse takes place. The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only cylinders with the specified weight are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced free of charge by the OMCs.

OMCs have introduced different colours for domestic and non-domestic LPG cylinders for controlling the diversion of domestic LPG for unauthorized use.

#### **Slashing of price of petro-products**

182. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rate of LPG, diesel and petrol would be cut immediately;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether benefits will be passed to the consumers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (d) In view of recent decline in the international oil prices, the Government has already reduced the retail selling prices of the sensitive petroleum products on two occasions as indicated below (at Delhi), with corresponding reductions in the rest of the country and thus, passed on benefits to consumers:

- Effective from 6.12.2008 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre and Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre; and
- Effective from 29.1.2009 - Petrol by Rs.5/- per litre, Diesel by Rs.2/- per litre and Domestic LPG by Rs.25/- per cylinder.

#### **Progress of IPI gas pipeline project**

183. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the bi-lateral issues between India and Pakistan concerning the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline have been resolved and that a joint case will soon be put up at the trilateral meeting;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a time schedule has been laid by Government for commencement of work on this pipeline; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) and (b) In order to enhance energy security of the country, import of natural gas is being pursued from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline Project. Various important issues concerning the Project are under discussion amongst the participating countries, viz., Iran, Pakistan and India.

(c) and (d) Such multilateral projects involve protracted discussions, as all the aspects have to be carefully examined and deliberated upon to the satisfaction of the participating countries to protect each country's interests and to avoid any problems in the future in the successful operation of the projects. Implementation of the Project will start only after satisfactory resolution of the issues under discussion amongst the countries participating in the Project. As such, a time schedule cannot be laid down.

#### **Reduction in petro-prices**

184. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government will further reduce the price of diesel, petrol, domestic gas and other oil products in view of the reduction of crude oil price in international market;
- (b) whether Government is aware that many petrol pumps are giving less petrol and in some cases petrol pumps are mixing some liquid to get more profit; and