

Misuse of domestic gas cylinders by the commercial establishments due to vast difference in prices

1910. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to vast difference in the prices of domestic and commercial LPG cylinders there exist a big racket of underhand dealing wherein domestic gas cylinders are being issued to commercial establishments which goes unabated, thus making a mockery of this dual pricing system;

(b) whether Government are also aware that often innocent LPG dealers are harassed by the concerned Oil Company Officials due to the malpractices of the commercial establishments which misuse the domestic gas cylinders; and

(c) if so, whether Government would see that the difference of this price is reduced to considerable extent to avoid the misuse and such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Even though no specific instances in this regard have been brought to the notice of the Government, the possibility of unauthorised diversion of LPG refills meant for domestic consumers to commercial customers by unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out;

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, several measures have been taken by the oil companies to prevent such unauthorised diversion, such as colour-banding of cylinders meant for non-domestic use, maintenance of separate registers at the distributor's level in respect of domestic and non-domestic consumers, setting up of distributorships to cater exclusively to non-domestic consumers, introduction of cylinders of a different size for non-domestic use, etc. The Government has also issued the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution)

Order, 1988 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Issues raised by the M. Ps of West Bengal with the Industry Minister

1911. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:
SHRI RAMNARYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the issues put forward by the Members of Parliament of West Bengal before him on the 11th May, 1988;

(b) the names of the M.Ps who put forward those issues;

(c) whether any action has been taken on those issues; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The names of the Members who attended the meeting on 11th May, 1988 taken by Shri J. Vengal Rao, Union Minister of Industry with Members of Parliament from West Bengal are given in the enclosure Statement (See below).

The issues raised at the meeting included industrial sickness, working of the BIFR, Haldia Petrochemicals, Bengal Potteries, ACC-Babcock Ltd., Titagarh Paper Mills, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd., Hindustan Pilkington, Bengal Paper Mills, Machinery Manufacturers Corporation Ltd., Jute Modernisation Fund, freight equalisation etc. The various issues raised and suggestions made, including those mentioned above, have been noted.