

- (a) whether now all gas cylinders will be made of fibre instead of steel;
- (b) if so, by when and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether fibre glass gas cylinders have been found completely safe; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government has conveyed "in principle" approval to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for expanding the product line by way of introduction of composite (translucent fiber glass) cylinders for marketing domestic LPG, subject to there being no subsidy element in the LPG to be marketed through these composite cylinders. The composite cylinders will show the level of LPG present in the cylinder. However, these cylinders are being introduced in selected markets as a separate package and not as replacement of existing cylinders.

The fiberglass cylinders are in use in different countries and are found to be as safe as steel cylinders and there is no compromise on safety. The cylinders will be put to circulation only after due approval of Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization (PESO).

Premium Service

†120. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently planned to start premium service;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) what is the main feature of this premium service; and
- (d) the time when this premium service will be started?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (d) Government has given in-principle approval for providing a premium facility of "providing LPG refill delivery as per customer's desired time" in metros and major cities to be gradually extended to entire country. Modalities of the scheme are under finalisation.

Negotiations with foreign countries for oil production

121. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has negotiated recently with Government of Sudan, Nigeria, Angola and Uganda for oil exploration and production;
- (b) the details of such negotiations and agreements;
- (c) whether all such countries have a very high risk-factor involved in oil business;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.