

water blocks where ONGC holds Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) granted on nomination basis.

Steps to check under Weight LPG Supply to consumers

3041. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil Companies had instructed to LPG distributors to ensure that delivery man carry with him a spring balance, so as, to check under weight LPG supply to the consumers;

(b) whether this instructions being complied with;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to provide complaint cards to the delivery man and action taken on the complaints by the customers within a fortnight; and

(e) whether Government propose to issue directives to the LPG distributors in the country particularly in metro cities to replace the under weight cylinders immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The LPG distributors are under instructions to check the correct weight of cylinders before the delivery to the customers.

(d) All the distributors are having complaints and suggestions register at the showroom for the customers to lodge complaints, if any, and these are attended to by the distributors/oil company officers during their periodic visit to the distributorships.

(e) All LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies are under instructions to replace the under weight cylinders free of cost immediately if the same is supplied by mistake or other wise.

Persons registered for LPG connections in Bihar

† 3042. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of people registered for LPG connections in Bihar, together with the district- wise details thereof;

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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(b) the reasons for not getting the connections by the persons registered for LPG connections in the State; and

(c) the time likely to be taken to clear the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) The total number of waiting list registered for LPG connections with the LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies in the State of Bihar as on 1.12.1999 was about 4.82 lakhs and the same will be liquidated by the end of year 2000.

Constitutional provision for reservation to SCs/STs in recruitment and promotion

3043. DR. (Ms.) P. SELVIE DAS:

SHRI GANDHI AZAD:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special provision in the Constitution for SCs/STs providing reservations in recruitment and promotions in services and posts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that seniority of SCs/STs from the date of promotion to next grade/post in accordance with the normal rule of seniority is denied in view of the Supreme Court's Judgement in R.K. Sabharwal case;

(d) if so, the steps taken to safeguard the interests of SCs/STs in this regard; and

(e) whether Government are considering to take up this case for review in Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Article 16(4) of the Constitution "empowers the State to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State." Article 16 (4A) of the Constitution "empowers the State to make any provision for reservation in matters of promotion to any class or classes of posts in the services under the State in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which in the opinion of the States, are not adequately represented in the services under the State".