

MR. CHAIRMAN : Q.No. 181 ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I had given notice for suspension of Question Hour ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN : No waving of posters ...*(Interruptions)*... No waving of posters ...*(Interruptions)*... The House is adjourned till 12.00 hrs.

The House then adjourned at four minutes past eleven of the clock.

The House reassembled at twelve of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Acute shortage of LPG in Tamil Nadu

*181. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of LPG for domestic use as compared to the demand in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the reasons for this shortage prevailing in the State, presently;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it takes more than ten to fifteen days to get a refill for LPG at various places across the State;

(d) the steps being taken to ease the supply *vis-a-vis* the demand prevailing in the State; and

(e) by when the situation is likely to improve to ensure smooth supply at regular intervals for the consumers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) to (e) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) has reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country including in the State of Tamil Nadu and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenuous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

OMCs have reported a backlog of few days in LPG supplies in certain States in the country including Tamil Nadu due to a combination of factors *viz.* unplanned shutdown of refineries at some

of the sources, shortage of LPG in the global market, restricted movement of bulk LPG tank trucks due to heavy unexpected rainfall in different parts of the country, bulk LPG tank truck drivers' strike in Southern Region during October, 2010 and excessive booking due to various festivals etc.

Government has reviewed the overall backlog situation and has advised OMCs to liquidate it in the State by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

OMCs have taken the following steps to ease the situation in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- i) 3rd Carousel at Ennore Bottling Plant of Indian Oil Corporation Limited was commissioned on 25.10.2010 to augment supply and the same is under stabilization.
- ii) All General shifts plants are being operated on extended hours on week days.
- iii) All double shifts plants are being operated on holidays/Sundays.
- iv) Inter-company hospitality arrangement have been firmed up.
- v) Interstate packed LPG assistance to Tamil Nadu markets from Karnataka.
- vi) Distributor indents are closely monitored.
- vii) Refill deliveries are being made on Sundays/Holidays and distributors advised to step up deliveries and extend delivery time.

OMCs have reported that as on 19.11.2010, the stock of LPG on all India basis including stock on wheels is about 315 TMT including 12 TMT in Tamil Nadu, which is equivalent to 8 days and 5 days cover respectively.

OMCs have reported that they have supplied 550.61 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT) of domestic LPG in the State of Tamil Nadu between April, 2010 and September, 2010 as against 498.02 TMT domestic LPG during the corresponding period of last year, showing a growth rate of 10.56%.

OMCs have reported that as on 01.10.2010, they are serving 127.4 lakh customers, including 22.74 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) customers under the State Government scheme through their 710 LPG distributors in the State of Tamil Nadu. OMCs have released 7.20 lakh new LPG connections in the State of Tamil Nadu between April, 2010 and September, 2010 including 6.08 lakh connections to BPL families under the State Government sponsored scheme.

Whenever OMCs receive complaints of deliberate delay in refill supplies, these are investigated. If the complaint is established, action is taken against the erring LPG distributor in accordance with the provisions of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement.

Healthcare system in the country

*182. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to an international survey, India's healthcare system fails miserably on almost all parameters in comparison to many developed or developing nations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that the healthcare system in rural areas of the country is pathetic and needs improvement; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to develop the overall healthcare infrastructure in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) A study by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) & HOSMAC India Private Limited has reported lower performance of India as compared to six other countries on certain selected parameters. The countries covered in the study are India, Singapore, Brazil, UK, USA, UAE and China. The parameters studied were Healthcare infrastructure, Healthcare education, Human Resources, Health Insurance and medical equipment.

(c) and (d) Considering the need for improving the healthcare system in rural areas of the country, Government of India has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in the year 2005 with an aim to provide accessible affordable quality health care to the rural population, especially the vulnerable sections. Over the five years period of NRHM, substantial improvement has been made in health infrastructure and manpower. 9144 new Health sub-centre buildings, up-gradation of 8997 sub-center buildings, 1009 new PHC buildings, up-gradation of 2081 PHC buildings, 435 new CHC buildings, up-gradation of 1255 CHC buildings, 57 new District Hospitals and up-gradation of 387 District Hospitals have been taken up. The health infrastructure has been further strengthened by system of referral transport and Mobile Medical Units.

During the period 2005-10, 8624 MBBS Doctors, 2460 specialists, 46660 ANMs, 26793 Staff nurses, 7692 AYUSH doctors, and 3143 AYUSH paramedics have been added to the system under NRHM.