

Action against LPG distributors for fraudulent practices

1514. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has already passed the direction to take suitable action against the LPG distributors found guilty for the issue of benami, multiple and bogus gas connections and entering fake transfer vouchers and Transfer Termination Vouchers (TTVs) or Transfer Vouchers (TVs);

(b) if so, what action has been taken so far by oil corporations against the distributors during the last three years and penalty amount collected so far;

(c) if not, whether Government and oil corporations have skirted this issue; and

(d) if not, by when suitable action shall be taken to collect the data for taking suitable action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) to (d) In order to stop various malpractices including release of benami/bogus LPG connection, enrollment of Transfer Voucher (TV)/Termination Transfer Voucher (TTV), Government have formulated "Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 2007" which provides for penal action against LPG distributors to prevent blackmarketing of LPG.

MDG provides for following action against the distributor indulging in release of benami/bogus LPG connection, enrollment of TV/TTV :-

- Fine of Rs. 10,000 and recovery of Rs. 4000 per fake TV for 1st offence.
- Fine of Rs. 25,000, suspension for one month and recovery of Rs. 4000 per fake TV for 2nd offence.
- Termination of the distributorship for 3rd offence.

Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that action has been taken in 140 established cases in the country for release of benami/bogus LPG connection, enrollment of TV/TTV during the last three years and between April 2010 and September 2010 under the provision of MDG/Distributorship Agreement. An amount of Rs. 121.28 lakh has been imposed as penalty on the erring LPG distributors under the provision of MDG during the same period.

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, *inter-alia* provides for :-

(i) One domestic LPG connection for one household (instead of per person earlier). This may be enforced strictly to rule out multiple connections in any household.

(ii) For making it mandatory for PNG providing agencies to obtain undertaking from the customer to surrender the LPG connection within 60 days from the date of obtaining PNG connection and to discontinue the supply of PNG to an existing consumers of LPG who has not surrendered the LPG connection within the time limit for 60 days.

(iii) OMOs are prohibited to provide LPG connection to a person who is in possession of a PNG connection.

Accordingly, Government have advised OMOs to implement the amended Control Order strictly.

OMO's have reported that they have initiated the exercise of identifying multiple LPG connections, i.e., more than one domestic LPG connection registered in the name of one customer. The availability of any existing LPG connection is checked while installing the new LPG connection at the house of the prospective customer.

China's inclusion in IPI gas pipeline project

1515. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China may replace India in the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA) : (a) and (b) Government is only aware of press reports in local Iranian media indicating possibility of China joining the Project.

Subsidised cooking gas connections for BPL families and tea garden labourers

†1516. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.