

- (ii) The review of engineering design through an internationally reputed consultant M/s. Mustang. Based on the report, an action plan has been drawn to provide further safeguard the Offshore structures.

LPG pilferage

3289. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that subsidy on 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinders is mostly unreachable to the domestic customers due to severe pilferage of gas before delivery by distribution agencies and their workers in many parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and, the concrete steps proposed to be taken including introduction of tamper-proof seal instead of present aluminium/plastic seals which are easily tampered by distribution workers;

(c) whether oil companies turn a blind eye to this menace and also whether there are connivance of employees of oil companies in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) While no case of any large scale pilferage of LPG from cylinders has come to the notice of the Government, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there have been some instances of pilferage from filled cylinders, which have been detected at their distributors' premises.

(b) to (d) During the year 2005-06, OMCs have reported 17 established cases of pilferage of LPG and action of penalty/termination against the LPG distributors has been taken in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG) or the Distributorship Agreement (DA). As and when complaints of pilferage of LPG are received by the OMCs, they are investigated by them and in all established cases, action is taken against the LPG distributors under the provisions of MDG, 2001 and/or DA. The MDG provide for a fine for the first two established cases of pilferage and for termination of the distributorship for the third established case against any distributor.

[16 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

At present, OMCs are using heat shrinkable preformed Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) seals, developed and recommended by the LPG Equipment Research Centre (LERC), as a tamper evident sealing system for LPG cylinders with a view to supplying correct weight gas to the consumers. PVC seals are difficult to duplicate, shrink at high temperature and require special technical expertise to manufacture. The oil industry through LERC is trying to bring about further improvement in the existing PVC seals in use on filled LPG cylinders.

The distributors of OMCs are under strict instructions to check the weight of cylinders at their godowns before delivery, and only correct weight cylinders are to be delivered to the customers. The distributors have also been instructed to ensure that the seals are verified & shown to the customers at the time of delivery. In case any under-weight cylinder is received by the customer, such cylinders are replaced with a fresh refill cylinder without any charges by the OMCs.

OMCs have not come across any established cases of connivance of their employees in the recent period regarding pilferage of LPG from cylinders.

Hydrocarbon Vision-2025

3290. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any attempt to implement the transitional gas pipeline project in the context of the Hydrocarbon Vision 2025 to safeguard the energy security;

(b) if so, the details of such project in anvil and proposed as on today; and

(c) the details of steps taken to implement the Iran, Pakistan and India (IPI) pipeline project as on today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) In order to meet the existing shortfall and the projected demand of natural gas and for enhancing country's energy security, one of the options is to import natural gas through transnational gas pipelines. India is pursuing import of natural gas from Iran, Myanmar and Turkmenistan through transnational pipelines. With regard to the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Gas Pipeline, the