

(c) Planning Commission has informed that they have not issued any such written communication.

Transparent LPG gas cylinders

†1690. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had announced a scheme, in the year 2008, regarding introduction of transparent gas cylinders and multi-function regulator;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the aforementioned scheme was not effective keeping in view the pilferage of LPG supply of underweight cylinders and consumers convenience;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the reasons for not implementing the scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government has advised Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to call for a global expression of interest to set up facilities for manufacturing of composite cylinders (fibre glass) domestically.

As per Gas Cylinder Rules 2004, approval of Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization (PESO) is required for marketing LPG cylinders in the country. At present, there is no Indian manufacturer who has the approval of PESO for manufacturing of composite cylinders.

As regards multi-function regulator, OMCs have reported that they have launched a multi-function regulator which has additional safety features like level indicator, child lock, excess flow check valve and built in leak detector. This multi-function Regulator has been launched in the year 2011, as a pilot project.

Road connectivity to habitation with smaller population

1691. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of policy of Bharat Nirman, villages having 500 population in normal and 250 in tribal areas are deprived of road connectivity;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government would consider to provide connectivity to such villages in the States where Bharat Nirman targets are already achieved; and

(c) if so, the details of plans of the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Keeping in view of the time frame fixed for achieving the targets of 'Rural Road' component of Bharat Nirman by March, 2012, focus is being accorded to habitations conforming to population criterion fixed for coverage under Bharat Nirman. Achievement of targets under Bharat Nirman is also helping in achieving the goal of PMGSY. However, at the same time, new habitations are also being connected under PMGSY beyond Bharat Nirman by sanctioning the proposals conforming to the following four categories at present:

- (i) Residual new connectivity coverage envisaged under Phase-I of Bharat Nirman;
- (ii) Projects to be taken up with the assistance of World Bank and Asian Development Bank;
- (iii) New habitations connectivity in the identified Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected/Integrated Action Plan (IAP) districts; and
- (iv) Special road connectivity packages announced for the border areas.

Performance of MGNREGS in J & K

1692. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of fund allocated to Jammu and Kashmir under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) during the last three years;

(b) the quantum of fund allotted to Ladakh and Jammu region by the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir and when the money was given;

(c) the number of beneficiaries under this scheme, region-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that the wage rate are very low under this scheme than the private labour charges;

(e) whether Government is considering to increase the wage rate and also for a uniform wage rate all over the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRADEEP JAIN): (a) to (c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is