

- (a) whether it is a fact that the supply of gas cylinder to the consumers is being interrupted for nearly last one year and the consumers are facing a lot of problems;
- (b) whether there is also black-marketing of cylinders at lower level due to this shortage;
- (c) how much time Government will take to streamline it; and
- (d) how many days are normally required to deliver a gas cylinder after booking by consumer by the gas agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The public sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have reported that there is no permanent shortage of LPG supply in the Country and they are meeting the genuine demand of the customers registered with their distributors and endeavor to supply refills normally within seven working days from the date of booking. However, sporadic instances of generation of backlog occur in some markets, due to reasons beyond control like strikes/bandhs/agitations by contract labours/transporters/trade unions etc.

If backlog gets generated due to uncontrollable/ unavoidable reasons, the same is met by augmenting supplies to the affected markets by operating the bottling plants on Sundays/ holidays.

The possibility of black-marketing of subsidized domestic LPG cylinders by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to the wide gap between the retail price of LPG for domestic use and the market price for commercial LPG. In all established cases of black-marketing, action has been taken against the erring distributors as per provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG).

Supply of subsidized HSD

2617. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the oil corporations have allowed their respective dealers of the area to make supplies of subsidized High Speed Diesel (HSD) to the bulk consumers through their tankers in violation of Government's directions;

(b) if so, whether the dealers are allowed to make supplies of HSD upto 2500 litres per consumer in containers other than tankers; and

(c) if not, what is the prescribed mode/containers for making the HSD supplies for generators of consumers/agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Petroleum Rules, 2002 provides for filling High Speed Diesel (HSD) in approved container of capacity not exceeding 200 litres provided that no vehicles with its engine running be allowed within 4.5 metres of the container and the dispensing pump.

Distortions in Pricing of Petroleum Products

2618. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum sector suffers from serious distortions in pricing products which lead to huge under recoveries and discourage private investments;

(b) if so, the details of distortions in product prices and resultant under recoveries; and

(c) the details of measures taken by Government to remove these distortions without affecting the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In order to insulate the common man from the impact of rise in international oil prices and the domestic inflationary conditions, the Government has been modulating the Retail Selling Price (RSP) of sensitive petroleum products viz. Diesel (in retail), PDS Kerosene and Subsidized Domestic LPG, resulting in incidence of under-recovery to the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). The Government has evolved a Burden Sharing Mechanism to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries incurred by OMCs is shared by all the stakeholders in the following manner:

- (i) Government through oil bonds/cash assistance;
- (ii) Public Sector Upstream Oil Companies namely, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Oil India Limited (OIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) by way of price discount on Crude oil products.