

is revised from time to time taking into account the increase in the Consumer Price Index Number. NFLMW has been revised recently to ₹ 160/- per day with effect from 01.07.2015.

Non-delivery of gas cylinders by gas agencies in Uttarakhand

†*270. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the freight per cylinder being paid to gas agencies for delivering gas cylinders upto consumers in the hilly States;

(b) whether it is a fact that gas agencies in Uttarakhand are saving freight component by not delivering cylinders upto consumers;

(c) if so, whether such a situation arises because of non-availability of gas cylinders on time; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to remove the hindrances in gas supply so as to make on time delivery of gas cylinders to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The amount of delivery charges included in the Domestic LPG Distributors' Commission effective 7th December, 2015 are as under:

14.2 KG Cylinder	5 KG Cylinder
₹ 18.50	₹ 9.00

These charges are not applicable for customers who collect their refills directly from Distributors' premises. The above rate is uniformly applicable for all Domestic LPG Distributors in India.

However, the concerned District Administration may decide to fix additional delivery charges over and above Retail Selling Price (RSP) of LPG refills in the market depending on distance and terrain and permit Distributors to collect the same. In case of RGGLV Distributors, they are authorized to supply refills on Cash and Carry basis without any rebate from the godowns and can collect RSP from the customers.

(b) and (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that in Hilly areas of Uttarakhand, the cylinders are being provided to customers either

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

on home delivery or point delivery system. Wherever home delivery for individual customers is not feasible due to geographical conditions/scattered villages with low population, distributors take the cylinders from their godowns to the points nearest to the customers and deliver them at those points on scheduled dates/days. There is no established correlation between shortage of cylinders and non home delivery. However, in established cases of non home delivery, action is taken against erring Distributors as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG)/Distributorship Agreement.

Delay in refill supply to some consumers may occur in some markets, due to reasons beyond control like heavy rains/floods/strikes/bandhs/agitations by transporters etc. Under such situation, OMCs operate the Bottling Plants on Sundays/Holidays/extended hours to augment supplies to the affected markets.

(d) To ensure on time delivery of gas cylinders to consumers following steps are taken by the OMCs:-

- (i) Regular monitoring of the Distributors' operation including timely indenting by Distributors, supply-demand and delivery infrastructure.
- (ii) Periodical/surprise inspections of the LPG Distributors.
- (iii) All the regular LPG Distributors are under instructions to deliver the cylinders at the customer premises with the areas of operation of the distributorships as per the Retail Selling Price and additional charges approved by District Administration, wherever applicable.
- (iv) Action is taken by the OMCs as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Distributorship Agreement against the erring distributors in established cases of non home delivery/delays.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Slowdown in core sector growth

2721. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the slowdown in core sector growth to 2.5 per cent from 5.6 per cent during the same period last year;
- (b) the reasons for the negative growth in October 2015 in crude oil natural gas, refinery products and steel sectors; and
- (c) the plans of Government to raise these low growth rates in core sectors?