

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) The slowdown in core sector growth was due to slowdown in the growth of Coal, Steel, Cement and Electricity industries.

(b) In general, the negative growth in October, 2015 of Crude Oil and Natural Gas was *inter-alia*, due to ageing fields, water/sand ingress, environmental problems, etc. and that of Refinery Products was due to shut down of certain units. Further, the decline in production of Steel was mainly on account of on-going work related to modernization/upgradation/commissioning of new (brownfield) capacities, downfall in domestic steel consumption and rise in imported material.

(c) The Government is taking steps to raise growth in these industries which *inter-alia*, include measures relating to policy, procedures, improving infrastructure and ensuring availability of required inputs.

Export of beef

2722. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is legal to export beef;

(b) if so, the details of estimated quantity of beef exported and the revenue generated from it to Government annually; and

(c) if it is legal outside the country why the sale of beef cannot be legalized across the country for domestic users?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) to (c) As per the existing Government of India's Meat Export Policy the export of beef (meat of cows, oxen and calf) is prohibited and is not permitted for exports. However, as per the distribution of legislative powers between Union of India and States, under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, preservation of cattle is the matter on which the State legislatures have the exclusive powers to legislate.

Study on PICS

2723. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted a study on Pharmaceuticals Inspection Cooperation Scheme (PICS);