

In order to address the issues in respect of Capital Goods Sector an Inter Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC) has been constituted in the Department of Heavy Industry for development of Domestic Capital Goods Industry. The Committee is mandated with reviewing Public Procurement Guidelines, addressing the issue of import of second hand capital goods and to review duty structure on import of raw materials and components of capital goods, which need to be consistently taxed lower than finished goods import. First Meeting of the Committee has already taken place.

#### **New connections under PMUY**

\*359. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is releasing lakhs of new LPG connections every month across the country under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY);

(b) if so, the number of new connections released so far across the country under the scheme and the number of refill purchase status of the beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to educate all LPG consumers on the importance of following safety norms, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have released more than 2 crore LPG connections to the eligible adult woman of the BPL households under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as on 03.04.2017. So far sizeable number of connections have been released in the States of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. where the LPG coverage was significantly lower at the time of launch of PMUY. Average refill sale of customers in the country is 7.7(14.2 Kg.) per annum, including 4 for the beneficiaries of PMUY.

(c) OMCs have given instructions to their LPG distributors to release LPG connections after satisfying and meeting all the safety norms for installation of LPG connections. Further, OMCs have reported that the following measures are adopted for ensuring safety and for educating the LPG customers who have been released LPG connections under PMUY Scheme:—

- (i) Proper education is given on safety aspects of LPG usage to the PMUY beneficiaries through safety clinics during the LPG connection distribution melas by way of how to use LPG by demonstration and screening film on safety.
- (ii) While issuing LPG connections under PMUY Scheme, safety instructions card is given to the beneficiaries.

- (iii) All LPG distributors are under strict instructions to install connections at the premises of the PMUY beneficiaries and ensure that the Hotplate is kept at safe location and customer is advised about the safe way to use LPG.
- (iv) OMCs' Officers carry out regular customer contacts and distributorship inspections to monitor the above steps. During inspections, wherever it is found that the distributors are not adhering to the given instructions or non compliance of given instructions, suitable action under MDG is taken against such defaulting distributors.
- (v) Government has launched intensive 'Safety Campaign' through print and electronic media highlighting safety norms in usage of LPG.

#### **Illegal overstaying of foreign nationals**

\*360. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals were issued Visas under various categories during 2014-15;

(b) whether Government has any record to state as to how many of them have returned to their own countries after the expiry of their Visa, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any mechanism in place to ensure that foreign nationals, especially from neighbouring countries are not allowed to overstay illegally, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) The number of visas issued under various categories to Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals during the years 2014 and 2015 are as follows:-

Year	Pakistan	Bangladesh
2014	94993	652919
2015	77543	751044

(b) The number of Pakistan and Bangladesh nationals who overstayed and later departed during the period 1.1.2014 - 31.12.2015 are as follows:-

Country	Overstayed	Departed after overstay
Pakistan	48510	12200
Bangladesh	20870	8387