

**Deficiency of fire fighting infrastructure**

\*129. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many major cities have huge deficiency of fire fighting infrastructure to tackle fire incidents and disaster management in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government is considering to bring latest fire fighting technology equipments like robots, remote controlled safety equipments, snake ladders in fire stations, etc. in various major cities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (d) The Fire Services have been included as a Municipal function under the XII Schedule of the Constitution of India Article 243 (W). As such, the Central Government does not maintain any data about the fire fighting infrastructure like fire stations, fire equipments, personnel and fire tender/vehicles available with the cities.

However, Directorate General (Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards), Ministry of Home Affairs had engaged M/s. Risk Management Solutions Inc. (RMSI), a consultative firm, to carry out Fire and Risk Hazard Analysis in the country in 2011. As per the M/s RMSI report published in 2012, there are deficiencies against the requirement of fire stations, fire fighting appliances/vehicles, specialized firefighting equipments and fire personnel in the country.

It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to allocate sufficient resources for strengthening and equipping Fire Services and to bring latest fire fighting technology equipment in the fire stations for safety of life and property of the citizens in the area of their jurisdiction from fire hazards.

Directorate General (Fire Service, Civil Defence and Home Guards) plays an advisory role through the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC). The SFAC have laid down norms for establishment of Fire Stations, Equipment, Manpower and Fire tenders/ Vehicles. These norms recommended by SFAC are advisory in nature. The National Disaster Management Authority has issued guidelines during April, 2012 with the

objective of standardizing scaling/ type of equipment and training of man power to modernize and improve fire fighting capabilities in the country.

**Permission to change bank for receiving LPG subsidy**

\*130. SHRI JOY ABRAHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry permits an LPG customer to change his/her bank for receiving LPG subsidy;
- (b) if so, the formalities for the same; and
- (c) the competent authority to which an LPG customer can approach in case the customer fails to receive the subsidy through the bank of his/her choice?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) There are two types of LPG customers receiving subsidy in their bank account, namely, Aadhaar Transfer Compliant (ATC) and Bank Transfer Compliant (BTC).

ATC customers, who are receiving subsidy can change their bank account, by linking/submitting Aadhaar with their desired bank account. Once their bank updates the Aadhaar information with National Payment Corporation of India, consumer can avail future subsidies in their desired bank account.

BTC customers can change their bank for receiving LPG subsidy, by submission of their desired bank account details at LPG distributorship and can avail subsidy in their desired bank account.

(c) The process of subsidy transfer involves various stake holders, namely, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and banks. The complaints mainly relate to Aadhaar linking issues with bank or bank account related issues and the customers have to contact their bank branches for resolution.

To address the complaints/queries relating to subsidy, the following mechanisms are available for the customers:

- (i) *www.mylpg.in*: On this portal, LPG customers can get information relating to Aadhaar or Bank account linking status with LPG database, banks, subsidy transfer status etc.