

(c) Yes. Oil India Limited (OIL) has called back its executives from Venezuela because there was significant reduction in project activities due to security reasons. One OIL Executive has been deputed back to Venezuela.

Extra charge by LPG distributors in rural and remote areas

1382. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry is aware that LPG distributors in rural and remote areas are charging ₹ 15-20 extra which they do not mention in the bill;

(b) if so, how many such cases have so far been reported to OMCs/Ministry during last three years and the current year, year-wise and district-wise and what action concerned OMC has taken on such agency;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a need to have more transparency in selecting LPG dealership since existing rules and guidelines are hurting expansion plans of OMCs; and

(d) if so, the measures Ministry is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that all distributors, except Durgam Kshetriya Vitaks, are under instructions to make home delivery of LPG cylinders in their authorised area of operation including rural areas without any additional charges. However, the State/UT Government can fix additional delivery charge in consultation with the OMCs only in cases where it is necessary in view of the geographical terrain and/or the distance in the area of the distribution. Instances of overcharging reported by OMCs during the last three years as under:—

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
261	165	282

OMCs take punitive action as per the extant Marketing Discipline Guidelines and the Distributorship Agreement against the LPG distributors in established cases of Irregularities.

(c) and (d) To bring transparency in selection of LPG distributorships, an online selection process has been introduced under Unified Guidelines for Selection of LPG Distributorships which includes online receipt of application, processing and online

draw of lots. Online draw of lots is conducted by M/s Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.(MSTC), a Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Steel, with assistance of National Informatics Centre (NIC).

Controlling increasing prices of LPG

1383. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the prices of subsidized and non-subsidized LPG cylinders are increasing tremendously during the last two years;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government has made any mechanism to control the prices of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Government continues to modulate the effective price to consumer for subsidized domestic LPG. Prices of petroleum products in the country are linked to their respective product prices in the international market. As Government is modulating the retail price of subsidized domestic LPG, the subsidy on these products increase/decrease with the corresponding increase/decrease in the prices of these products in the international market. The subsidized and non-subsidized price of domestic LPG is ₹ 494.35 and ₹ 637.00/14.2 kg cylinder respectively (at Delhi market as on 01.07.2019). The applicable subsidy to consumer is ₹ 142.65/14.2 kg cylinder.

The price of domestic subsidized LPG and non-subsidized LPG at Delhi during the last two years is available at the website of IOCL *i.e.* www.iocl.com.

Goal for reducing crude oil imports

1384. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set the goal for reducing crude oil imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any five-year action plan for individual segments of Government has been set;