

oil is produced from already discovered oil fields and new oil fields.

Streamlining the Distribution of LPG in West Bengal

541. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal had proposed a discussion with the Union Government to streamline the distribution of liquid petroleum gas to ease the crisis being faced by the domestic consumers ;

(b) if so, the result of the said discussion held between the representatives of the State and the Union Government ;

(c) the details of the points raised at the said discussion ; and

(d) if no discussion took place, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) : A statement giving the requisite information is being placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

On the suggestion of the Government of West Bengal, a discussion took place on 29.1.1985 in Calcutta between Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, Government of West Bengal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and representatives of Oil Companies regarding supply of LPG in West Bengal. The position was reviewed at this meeting and the following decisions were taken with a view to improving the supply position :—

(i) Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation would augment the supply of LPG cylinders so as to wipe out the entire backlog by the end of February, 1985.

(ii) After the backlog in supplies has been cleared Indian Oil Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation would issue second cylinders against pending applications for second cylinders.

(iii) A copy of Control Order (for regulating distribution of LPG) which is being implemented by the Government of Gujarat in that State would be made available to Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, West Bengal as desired by him for drafting a Control Order in respect of West Bengal.

(iv) General Manager, Indian Oil Corporation, Eastern Region would prepare and make available to Secretary, Food and Civil Supplies, West Bengal a consolidated list indicating areas in which help and assistance of the Government of West Bengal was needed by the Oil Industry in connection with the distribution arrangements for LPG.

A recent review of the position has shown that the backlog in West Bengal had become nil at the end of February, 1985. Second cylinders are being issued to consumers freely by the oil industry.

Steps to Improve the Functioning of Public Sector Pharmaceutical Companies

542. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :