

(a) whether Union Government are keeping a watch on the manufacture of computers in the country with a view to ensure the people here get the computers of certain minimum quality and specifications;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of imported components in the computers being sold in the country;

(d) the efforts being made to produce indigenously all the computer components in the country; and

(e) the quantity of silicon chips being produced in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The Standardisation, Testing & Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate under the Department of Electronics has formulated specifications for personal computers and peripherals with participations from Industry Associations, Bureau of Indian Standards, Computer Society of India etc. STQC Directorate has set up various test laboratories for Electronic Industries including IT products to get their products tested to a particular specifications.

(c) The percentage of imported components in the computer being sold in the country varies from one configuration to the other. On an average, the value of import contents in personal computers is about 45% of the ex-factory price.

(d) Encouragement for indigenisation of the computer industry is mainly provided through appropriate fiscal policy measures.

(e) Based on the information available with the Department of Electronics, during 1995, the number of silicon integrated circuits produced in India had been approximately 35.68 million numbers (including 13.46 million Hybrid ICs) and growth rate of 57% is estimated during 1996.

[Translation]

LPG Cylinder

1914. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI I.D. SWAMI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of refilled LPG cylinder is made to the L.P.G. consumers by the various Oil Companies after 21 days of booking of the same;

(b) whether various Oil Companies have decided to release L.P.G. connection immediately on receiving a deposit of Rs. four thousand;

(c) if so, whether it is likely to affect the existing L.P.G. consumers to whom refilled cylinders are supplied after 21 days of the booking;

(d) if so, the reaction, of the Government thereto;

(e) whether Government propose to supply the refilled L.P.G. cylinders within a week after the booking for the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) Yes, Sir. LPG refills are supplied to the customers not before 21 days from the date of previous delivery by the Oil Companies.

(b) Yes, Sir. With effect from 20th February, 1997 LPG connection under Tatkal scheme are being released to any person intending to use LPG within 7 days after collecting a lumpsum non-refundable non-time payment of Rs. 4,000/- in addition to normal security deposit payable for loaned equipments.

(c) No, Sir. The release of LPG connection under Tatkal scheme will not affect refill supplies to existing LPG consumers. Supply of refills to existing and new customers will be on same terms.

(d) Not applicable in view of (c) above.

(e) and (f) Normally, refill is supplied within 24 hours after booking, if it is not before 21 days of previous supply. Normally, LPG cylinder lasts more than 21 days.

[English]

Import of Crude Oil

1915. DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :
SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import crude oil from Iraq;

(b) if so, the quantity and the price thereof;

(c) whether this price is favourable for our country; and

(d) if so, the price difference between the existing price and when Iraq was allowed to export oil by the UN?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d) The Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., the canalising agency for import of crude oil, have concluded a contract with SOMO of Iraq on 17.2.97 for import of about 0.5 MMT of Basrah Light Crude Oil during the period 10th March'97