

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2508
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2003
CASES OF CYLINDER EXPLOSIONS
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of deaths are occurring due to LPG cylinder explosions ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year ;
- (c) whether dealers and oil companies are not properly geared to come immediately to the rescue of consumers when gas leaks cases are brought to the notice ;
- (d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to ensure safety of consumers ;
- (e) whether better quality control measures would be strengthened to eliminate all LPG based accidents ; and
- (f) if so, the steps proposed in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported 100 LPG cylinder accidents causing death of 30 persons during the year 2002-03. Most of the LPG accidents are associated with non-observance of safety measures at customer's end or use of sub-standard LPG Stoves / Gas tubes etc by consumers.

(c) & (d) : During the working hours, the trained mechanics employed by distributors of OMCs attend to all leakage complaints. OMCs operate Emergency Service Cells for attending to leakage complaints after the working hours and on holidays. OMCs have also put in place help lines at select locations to attend to the leakage complaints round the clock. Safety is accorded highest priority and regular safety clinics are conducted to educate customers on safe use of LPG and conservation of fuel. In addition, safety messages are also communicated to LPG users through the print and audio-visual media.

(e) & (f) : The cylinders delivered from the bottling plants are check for quality and quantity as per the laid down procedure before despatching the same to the distributors. The distributors are also advised to carry out a pre-check of each cylinder before delivering the same to the consumer.