

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:399

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2005

SUPPLY OF LPG CYLINDERS

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

- (a) whether certain restrictions have been imposed on the supply of domestic Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinders in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that due to imposition of restrictions on domestic LPG consumers are facing a lot of difficulties in getting gas cylinders ; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken to overcome the situation ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (d) : The Government have not imposed any restrictions on the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) for providing new LPG connections. However, due to some product shortages since September 2005, largely on account of non-materialization of some additional LPG imports planned by OMCs and shutdown of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)'s Refinery from October 2005, the OMCs have restricted the release of new connections. The position is being closely monitored by the Government and a composite task force of OMCs has been set up to undertake measures for both import and inventory management. While, at the macro level, the country-wide backlog is only around 1.5 % of the average monthly requirement of around 900 TMT (Thousand Metric Tonne) of LPG, at micro level, the backlog might vary from market to market on account of operational issues.

As and when any complaint regarding harassment of consumers by LPG distributors is received by the OMCs/Government, appropriate action is taken against such distributors.

The situation is expected to normalize by the end of November 2005 after the restoration of production in RIL's Refinery.