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Title: Need to provide adequate and timely supply of LPG cylinders in Tamil Nadu particularly in Tirunelveli district.

SHRI S.S. RAMASUBBU (TIRUNELVELI): Madam, in recent times, the problems of shortage of LPG or inordinate delay in LPG refill has increased in Tamil Nadu particularly in Tirunelveli District. The problem generally persists in all the LPG outlets and the public are bitterly complaining that at a time when huge power cuts reign. Besides, many of the families do not get PDS kerosene, while in the open market, it costs anywhere between Rs. 55 and Rs. 70 a litre and the prices of coal and firewood are also exorbitant.

Scarce booking and delayed delivery of LPG refills make life miserable. The LPG cylinder dealers are generally undertake bookings only after 21 - 30 days from the previous booking. After booking, it takes no less than 30 to 40 days for the customers to get their LPG refill. This means, 60 - 70 days elapses after one booking. The alternative cooking system such as induction stoves seldom helps and in these days of acute power cuts, it is also of no use. Quite often, people who possess single LPG cylinder connection are facing lot of difficulties in cooking activities.

Many even complain about the weight of LPG cylinders. There are instances that the delivery man further prolong the delivery of refills and leave the cylinders for 2 - 3 days in tea stalls, road side eateries, etc. As they are not being paid minimum statutory wages, they are making money by this way or demanding etc. money over and above the cylinder cost. The dedicated phone numbers/LPG dealers never attend to the customers' calls/complaints and even when they attended, often the reply is not satisfactory.

I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take adequate and urgent steps in order to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Tamil Nadu and ensure easy availability and timely delivery of LPG refilling to the consumers and take stern action against the errant LPG distributors in the country.