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Title: Need to supply at least 12 cylinders of LPG to Economically Weaker Section consumers and to retain the originally proposed number of LPG cylinders at subsidized rates to APL consumers.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): The Centre has taken bold initiatives as a part of the overall economic reforms including curtailment of subsidies on essential commodities including LPG. The proposed cap on the supply of subsidized LPG cylinders to economically weaker sections is too much below than their bare actual requirements. Considering the hardships of the poor to switch over to alternate fuels including electricity which is also getting scarce and costlier, the Govt should consider raising the cap to a minimum of 12 cylinders per year to EWS consumers. With the freeing of the LPG market for non-subsidised APL consumers, many private companies have entered the LPG market to ensure unhindered LPG supplies at full cost price.

To offset the subsidy outgo on account of enhancing the LPG cap for EWS consumers, the Govt might consider retaining the originally proposed cap on LPG entitlement at subsidised rates to APL consumers.

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