

(a) improving the institutional framework for policy development; (b) strengthening the management and implementation capacity at the state, divisional, district and facility levels; and (c) developing surveillance capacity for major communicable diseases and strengthening Health Management Information System. Improving Service Quality and Effectiveness at 25 District Hospitals, 23-100 bedded and 53-50 bedded Sub-Divisional hospitals by (a) renovating/extending district hospitals and upgrading selected CHCs to sub-divisional hospitals and constructing training centres at 4 remaining district hospitals; and (b) upgrading effectiveness of clinical, managerial and support services at all district and sub-divisional hospitals.

Improving Access and Innovative Schemes by (a) renovating/extending and upgrading clinical effectiveness at 35 CHCs and enhancing their outreach functions; (b) improving the referral mechanisms with the primary and tertiary levels and with private health care; (c) promoting health services in tribal areas and for disadvantaged groups; and (d) developing a superspeciality hospital as an innovative scheme for closer co-operation between the public and private sectors through the adoption of modern management practices.

[*Translation*]

Price Rise of LPG

881. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
DR. SAROJA V:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO RAO MOHOL:

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

- (a) the actual cost of LPG in India as compared to other countries;
- (b) whether the price of L.P.G. has been hiked;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the net reduction in Centre's subsidy on cooking gas per cylinder consequent to the new price;

(e) whether any measures have been taken to lower the burden possible of hike on the consumers and if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have taken note of the sharp public reaction to the said hike and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(g) the reasons for sudden pre-Budget hike on the eve of the Budget Session of the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Prices of LPG in India and some other countries are as under:—

Country	Rs./Kg.
China	10.28
Bangladesh	11.30
Pakistan	13.32
Indonesia	4.55
Korea	26.36
India (New Delhi— on 1.2.99)	10.70

Rupee Dollar Exchange Rate is taken as Rs. 42.50 to work out the above prices which are as on July, 1998.

(b) to (g) The Government had decided in November, 1997 that subsidy on LPG will be reduced in phases to reach the level of 15% of the import parity price by 2000-01. The subsidy will be transferred to the fiscal budget from the year 2002 onwards. Accordingly, Government decided to reduce the subsidy by Rs. 24/cylinder. However, to reduce the burden on customers, the Government reviewed the cylinder compensation scheme for the oil companies and Rs. 10/cylinder was adjusted towards price increase. The ex-storage point price of LPG packed (Domestic) was increased by Rs. 14/cylinder (Rs. 985.92 per MT) only exclusive of duty, sales tax and other local levies effective midnight of 31st January/1st February, 1999.