

Khan: Don't blame bad gas for car fires

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Paria Fuel Trading's gas has met - and in many cases - exceeded the contractual specification, says Energy Minister Franklin Khan, as he defended the fuel quality.

Replying to Opposition queries in Parliament yesterday, Khan struck down concerns that the quality of gas might be responsible for fires which started in several cars.

He said Paria's products are fully tested at loading point, witnessed by independent inspectors. Results are provided to Paria prior to discharge of all cargo. The product is also tested at the Guaracara laboratory and inspected by independent inspectors.

"To date, all products imported have met and in many cases exceeded the contractual specifications. These specifications are in keeping with the Bureau

of Standards' specifications for motor vehicles, so there's no issue there.

On other Opposition queries, Finance Minister Colm Imbert said all releases will be issued next week - before the end of the week - for Couva/Talparo/Tabaquite regional corporation councillors who have been threatened with eviction due to lack of funding.

National Security Minister Stuart Young said the number of reports of missing

girls stood at 290 over January 2018 to January 2019.

These were all under age 17. The total included 260 girls in 2018 - including one Venezuelan minor - and 30 up to January 2019. Young said of that total, 266 were "extracted".

Young added the 19 Venezuelan women recently held in Port-of-Spain are still at a safe house and police probe continue on this since the captors include non-nationals.

guardian 09/04/19 pg A8