

is now available per cylinder. If the demands of the distributors are met by the Government, then the only thing that is to be done is to enhance the subsidy which the Government is now providing for LPG. But, in my view it should not be done. The subsidy which is being given now is around Rs. 70/- . So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is going to enhance the subsidy or cut down the subsidy.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, in all priced about Rs. 150/- or so per cylinder on an average, the subsidy element is about Rs. 70/- and the Government is subsidising to the tune about Rs. 1000/- crores in one year as a purpose subsidy in the supply of LPG. Now, there is no scope for immediately increasing the price of LPG and therefore, any additional commission that we have to pay to the LPG distributors has to be borne by the Government. They have asked for certain increase in the commission. We are trying to limit it to a reasonable extent. The Committee which has gone into it has suggested a particular increase. We have to negotiate and see that they do not get a commission more than they are entitled to in economic terms. We also have to see that the subsidy elements does not unduly increase and Government is not put to unnecessary financial pressure.

Issue of Identity Cards

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*343. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has submitted a proposal to the Union Government for preparation of identity cards through computerised laser-based technology to be distributed to citizens residing in border areas of the country.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been

approved by the Union Government; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

To meet the requirement of security and unambiguous identification of the card holder, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay has developed Computerised Laser Image Printing System. With this technology, details of the card holder and his photograph are digitalized and imprinted directly on the Identity Card. Each card is given a distinct computer identity based on a scientifically evolved phonetic numbering system which was also developed by BARC. This technology is time efficient and secure cards against forgery.

Based on this technology and with the approval of BARC, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) has started manufacturing and supplying the Computerised Laser Identity Card Printing (CLIP) System. State Governments of Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam Tripura and Mizoram have initiated steps for procurement of CLIP System from ECIL.

This scheme for issue of Identity Cards is aimed at covering infiltration prone border areas in phases.

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has stated that the State Government of Rajasthan Punjab, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram have initiated steps to issue Identity Cards. Sir, we all know that there is a large scale infiltration from Bangladesh into our Eastern border and from Sri Lanka into our Southern border and from Pakistan into Punjab and Kashmir.

Is the Central Government willing to

take responsibility of issuing these cards in these States?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The hon. Member is true that infiltration of people from across the border was taking place and is marginally taking place even now. That is why, in 1986, the Government of India decided to have the system of identity cards introduced in those areas where the State Governments and the Central Government feel that infiltration for various purposes including smuggling is taking place.

So we started a pilot scheme in 1986. That pilot scheme was made applicable to some of the border States where the threat was more. After the experiment of the pilot scheme, we have accepted to enlarge and widen the scope. So, we agree with the hon. Member that we are considering it actively. Actually, steps are also on the way for the States which he has mentioned now.

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: The crime rate in our country is increasing day by day. Has the Central Government any plan to issue these identity cards all over the country. If so, what is the expenditure that would be involved in issuing these cards? Will it be a time-bound programme?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: Sir, it is not a requirement for all over the country. It is specifically required only on the border areas where it is being noticed and the State Government also feel that it is very necessary. The expenditure is quite large and the Central Government has already given money to about eight States for issuing identity cards.

As an experimental measure, it was started in Rajasthan but it was extended to other areas also, but not to the country as a whole because the expenditure would be quite substantial and the requirement may not be so commensurate when we take into account the expenditure involved in it.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Minister has informed us about the phased introduction of this

programme or this scheme in the border areas. He has also told us that after the success of the pilot scheme the scope of the scheme has been widened.

I would like, therefore, to know from the hon. Minister the names of districts and their population which are covered by the term "border areas" as defined by him, as the target of this scheme and the corresponding information regarding the names of districts and their population in which the scheme has so far been introduced. Thirdly, I would also like to know the names of districts and their population in which these Computerised cards are now in use.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The pilot project was introduced in Rajasthan in the districts of Ganganagar, Baramer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner. The names of tehsils are also with me would be an enormous number if I read out. In the same way, in Gujarat, in Kutch and Banaskantha, some of the villages were identified and also the identity cards are distributed in these areas. The population of Assam is 2.29 crores. The districts to be covered are Dhubri, Cachar and Karimganj. I am only giving an example. The number of CLIPs required if the scheme is to be completed in one year is 84. The number of CLIPS required if the scheme is to be completed in five years is 17. The cost of CLIPS at the rate of Rs. 10.50 lakhs per CLIP is Rs. 1.78 crores and the total cost is Rs. 4.30 crores, for these three districts of Assam with 2.29 crores population.

In the same way, if you want information for a particular State, I can give the details. But I do not want to read out the entire thing.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The information has not been given as to in which districts these computerised cards have been issued.

DR. C. SILVERA: I think there is hardly any other State in the whole country as Mizoram which has got two international borders. On the eastern side is Burma and on the western side is Bangladesh and it has got approximately 400 KM of unguarded

international borders. A request has been made to the State Government to increase the Border Security Forces. But the Government is finding it a little bit difficult. Suggestions have been made by the Government of Mizoram to introduce identity cards. As it is mentioned in the reply also, Mizoram Government has initiated this. As there are lot of infiltrators coming through these two international borders because of the geographical and topographical condition of the area, may I get an assurance from the hon. Minister that the introduction of identity card system will be started or will be introduced in the near future in the State of Mizoram, considering the sensitivity and the situation of the State?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: I quite agree that Mizoram is having border with the states which the hon. Members have mentioned. It is actually order State. We have sanctioned about Rs. 30 lakhs for Mizoram and the Government of Mizoram have completed all the formalities required for introducing the schemes and the State Government have ordered for one unit of CLIP machine and I think they will be getting the machine by December and it will be possible for them to introduce it by the end of this year i.e. December.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Introduction of identity cards is one of the steps to check infiltration in the border States from neighbouring countries. There are other steps like detection and deportations of the foreigners, striking down their names from the electoral rolls and so on. Now, certain States, specially the Government of Assam, have failed to demonstrate their political will in implementing these measures. For example, the Government of Assam did not abide by the instruction of the Election Commission. That is why, the Election Commission has instructed the Government of Assam not to publish the electoral rolls without striking down the names of the foreigners as earlier instructed by the Election Commission. In view of this failure of the State Government to demonstrate their political will to detect the foreigners, the same failure will take place in case of issuing

of identity cards also.

May I know from the hon. Minister that in case the Government of Assam fails to implement the scheme, what alternative steps the Government is going to take to issue identity cards in the border areas of Assam for the protection of indigenous people?

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The first part of the question does not relate to the question about the Election Commission and all that. But I do feel that Assam Government is the Government that has asked for more number of CLIPs this time from this new system and, I am sure, Assam Government will be able to get that machine very soon because they have already placed order for that and identification will be possible.

In this connection, one question raised by the hon. Member is, if in a particular area people do not cooperate or if the State Government is not totally involved, what will happen. Legislation is being contemplated in this connection to make it obligatory in any part of the country which is a notified area, or a specific area where this card system is a must, it has to be implemented. That legislation is coming very soon.

SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the norms of issuing the Identity Cards. In my constituency, in the Kutch border area, the authority is abusing the power to issue the Identity Cards for many Muslims, local problem who are staying since years. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the norms of issuing the Identity Cards.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The norms of issuing the Identity Card are to collect the information regarding the status of the residents; to know who are the registered *bona fide* residents and also to check the movement of the visitors who are visitors but staying for more than 30 days. All these are the norms given. But if a specific complaint is given, we can certainly look into it. Otherwise, I will not be able to say whether there is any discrimination or not. At least, so far, no

discrimination has been brought to our notice.

SHRI INDER JIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my constituency of Darjeeling has international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is being done to introduce Identity Cards in this constituency which is very vital and strategic. Secondly, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would consider the possibility of reducing the cost in terms of the total cost to the country for issuance of Identity Cards by requiring the persons wanting ration cards to come forward with their own Identity Cards through recognised photo agencies.

SHRIM.M. JACOB: In the State of West Bengal which has just now been mentioned, the West Bengal Government has also started to introduce the scheme in one district called Nadia as an experimental scheme. As you say, if in your district also it is being noticed in a larger scale now, certainly it will be taken into account. But the present mechanism of providing this new technology is to see that the photo cannot be taken out from the Identity Card. So, that is why, the laser-printing technology is being used so that it is already there. Now, nobody can remove the photo identity Card. So, think this system may be better. After a series of experiments, we have introduced this system of laser-printing technology.

Regarding cost, we also thought that this is fairly reasonable. That is why we are now going ahead with this scheme.

Regarding the other part of it, whether some people are voluntarily coming and giving the names or not, that is why the legislation is thought of to make it a sort of compulsory thing to see that a particular area, where it is declared as compulsory and notified, must be covered for all the citizens who are residing there.

Restructuring of Medical Cadres

*344. **SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to restructure the medical cadres of the Central Police Organisations (CPOs) by extending the package of benefits allowed in the Central Health Service (CHS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). A proposal for restructuring the medical cadres in the Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force and the Indo Tibetan Border Police based on the package of benefits allowed in Central Health Services is under consideration. The proposal is likely to be finalised shortly.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Sir, what does the Government propose to do regarding outstanding benefits from 1986 till now? What is being done to assure their career prospects in future? The point is the Andhra Pradesh High Court directed the Government to implement the I.D. Committee recommendations from 1st January 1986.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The question involved - after the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations - is to consider giving this benefits to the CPOs also equivalent to other medical officers in the CHS etc. A special Committee was appointed for that purpose. The Committee has brought in its recommendation. Based on that, the Government was contemplating to restructure the cadres immediately. Then, there was a court case which was pending. The hon. Member is aware that it was there in the Andhra Pradesh High Court. Now, the case is over and we will be implementing it very soon. Because, the case is over and everything is all right. As the hon. Member has just now mentioned, the Government is considering to make it with retrospective effect.