

would become a formidable task. But I can certainly make an assessment.

MR. SPEAKER: No assurance on the floor of the House on that matter.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Sir, I would like to know from the Government whether it is true that any person who is wearing a dhoti-kurta would be treated as a villager and allowed to avail concession on meals. Attired in a dhoti-kurta, a person does not need a certificate from a Block Development Officer because his attire in itself is a symbol of his rural background. Will provisions be made to give concession on meals to persons attired in a dhoti-kurta?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There is no such provision.

[*Translation*]

Burhanpur as a Tourist Centre

*472. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Burhanpur has been declared as a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the amount allocated for development of this historical place?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK): (a) No Sir. There is no such policy of declaring any place as a tourist centre.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your supplementary.

SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: I have nothing more to ask.

SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Sir, the hon. Minister has given the information regarding Burhanpur. There are many other places in Madhya Pradesh which can be developed as tourist centres. Are there any proposals to develop tourism in Madhya Pradesh?

[*English*]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK: Sir, if the State Government comes forward and says that such-and-such a place has to be developed we have to try to develop it. I have got a lot of schemes as far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned. But I cannot specify about which the Hon. Member is asking.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, the Hon.

Minister has said 'no'. But may I know from the Hon. Minister what are the criteria for declaring a tourist centre?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): I think, the Hon. Members has not understood the answer. We have said, no, there is no such policy of declaring any place as a tourist centre. There is no such policy.

We have things like tourist circles. We also give financial help on the request of the State Government when they put forward certain projects. But there is no such thing as tourist centre.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: I want to know the criteria.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There is no such policy. There is no such tourist centre.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Sir, there are many places of tourist interest in Madhya Pradesh. Is there any proposal to provide financial assistance for the development of such places and what is the criterion for providing financial assistance?

MR. SPEAKER: Regarding this the hon. Minister has replied in the affirmative.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Which are these places in Madhya Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that there are several such places.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I shall give this information in response to the hon. Member's question although a reply to this question should not be necessary as we are talking about Burhanpur. Still, I would like to inform the hon. Member that the Government has given a lot of financial assistance to Madhya Pradesh. In the Seventh Plan Rs. 2.30 crores were given over a period of five years and this year there is a proposal to give Rs. 2.34 crores.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Chhotanagpur region in Bihar.

MR. SPEAKER: No, this question does not pertain to Bihar.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Sir, Khushinagar, near Deoria, is the biggest centre of Buddhism in the world. This place gets visitors from Sri Lanka, China and Burma. But this place is not developed and even basic amenities are not available for visitors.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to Madhya Pradesh. If you have a question regarding Bihar the hon. Minister will ask for notice.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: If the hon. Minister asks for a notice it is all right.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has said that.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Sir, Vidisha and Sanchi attract foreign tourists. I had an opportunity to tour Vidisha for a few days. I felt that facilities presently available for foreign tourists are not adequate. Will the hon. Minister improve the facilities in Vidisha in order to attract foreign tourists?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, the question pertains to Burhanpur. A number of projects have been taken up in Vidisha and Sanchi in consultation with Madhya Pradesh Government. Vidisha, which is a recognised tribal circuit, includes Bhopal, Sanchi and Udaygiri circuit. We will certainly look into the possibility of developing the area from the point of view of tourism.

[English]

Allotment of LPG agencies to Village Panchayats

*473. **SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allot LPG agencies to Village Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) LPG agencies are being set up in

places having a population of 20,000 and above, keeping in view the product availability, viability considerations etc.

SHRI M.R. JANARTHANAN: Mr. Speaker Sir, the answer is not only unsatisfactory but also vague and incomplete. My point in asking the question is whether or not the Government will set up LPG agencies in each Village Panchayat Union Headquarters in order to reduce the gap in the living standard of the urbanites and the rural people, keeping in view that there is deforestation when the villages use wood as fuel even today. And curtailing deforestation is a policy matter of this Government. My original question is only this point. But it is put as only Village Panchayats. I want to know whether the Government will set up LPG gas agencies in each Village Panchayat Union Headquarters or not. By doing so, the population criteria will also be satisfied which is more than a lakh and also time and money will be saved and the hygienic system will also be followed in the villages.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, it has been the Government's constant effort to increase the availability of LPG to our rural areas. But at the same time, it may not be possible to consider LPG marketing to all the Village Panchayats on account of the limited product availability and large number of existing unviable distributorships. Almost 40 per cent of the distributorships which are operating all over the country are considered to be unviable. Due to these reasons, it will not be possible to give an assurance that each Village Panchayat will be given the distributorship.

SHRI M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, the hon. Minister is talking about the availability of gas and several times, it is said in Parliament that gas is being flared up everyday in Bombay High. Even in the Cauvery Basin, tapping of gas is at a very slow pace. Therefore, availability of gas, which the Government is answering, is not relevant to the question. So much gas is being wasted.

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the question.

SHRI M.R. JANARTHANAN: Sir, the