

**Allotment of Gas Agencies**

4562. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN  
MANI TRIPATHI:

SHRI SATYANARAYAN  
JATIYA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of companies in the country have given advertisements in the newspaper regarding allotment of gas agencies in various places;

(b) whether the Government have given any recognition or licences to these agencies;

(c) whether these companies are entitled to seek deposits from the applicants for the allotment of gas agencies/connections; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Under the Parallel Marketing System, private agencies have been allowed to import LPG, using/setting up their own facilities, LPG bottling plants and distribution network for sale of such imported LPG at market-determined prices under their own terms, for which they do not need any licence from the Government. The public have been advised through a press Note that while no registration or licence by Government of India is necessary for undertaking parallel marketing, antecedents, genuineness and capability of parties advertising about their entry into parallel marketing and offering dealerships/distributorships may be ascertained before entering into any transaction or business with them. The States/UT Governments have also been requested to give necessary publicity about this through District functionaries and other appropriate agencies. On information/complaint, MR-

TP Commission also takes appropriate action against persons indulging in unfair trade practices.

[English]

**links Amongst Smugglers, Drug Traffickers and Terrorists**

4563. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:  
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that smugglers and drug-traffickers have links with terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether Pakistan is playing a major role in the narcoterrorist scenario in these States;

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to destroy the links amongst smugglers, drug-traffickers and terrorists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (d) Inter linkage between drug trafficking and smuggling of weapons for terrorist purposes have been observed, particularly in border areas of Gujarat and Rajasthan which provide easy route for smuggling of narcotics and cross-subsidised flow of weapons.

2. The issue of Pakistan's role to support these activities has been taken up by the Government at different international levels and the response has been encouraging. Besides above, Government have initiated several other steps to check smuggling of arms and other contraband items, which include strengthening of deployment of para-military forces, their intensified border patrolling and use of sophisticated border surveillance equipments and construction of border fencing. Coordinated efforts by several State and Central agencies to identify and nab the smugglers and drug traffickers have also been initiated.