

launched thereunder,

(f) the targets set under these schemes/programmes, and

(g) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) (a) to (c) Yes, Sir The General Assembly has designated 1st October, as International Day for the Elderly by the Resolution No 45/106 By designating 1st October as special day the Assembly also suggested activities to be observed for the day which includes statement by Heads of States, observances at United Nation Offices throughout the world, news announcement in Radio, Television, Press, Photographic and Poster displays in public area etc It was observed for the first time throughout the world in 1991

(d) to (g) Yes Sir Ministry of Welfare is implementing a scheme for the welfare of the aged which provide for Institutional and Non-Institutional as well as medical services through Non-Governmental Organisations Necessary awareness programmes we launched on the International Day for the Elderly No targets have been fixed as the scheme is operated through N G O s the progress depends o the number of proposals received from N G O s and availability of funds For the current years the total plan allocation is Rs 5 68 crores under the scheme

Modernisation of BSF

2466 SHRI ANNA JOSHI
SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise and strengthening the Border Security Force particularly its Water and Air Wings to check smuggling of explosive and other materials assisting the terrorists and fundamentalist elements operating in the borders,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether better boats and aircrafts are likely to be provided to the Force, and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) and (b) Modernisation and strengthening of the Border Security Force, including the Water Air Wings, is a continuous and on going process

(c) and (d) In the recent past BSF has been sanctioned 43 speed boats, 2 medium crafts, 5 mechanised boats, 9 country boats, 61 engine fitted country boats and 14 motor vehicles besides 423 additional posts under its expansion programme The additional boats and crafts sanctioned recently are in the process of procurement

LPG Demand

2467 SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are self-sufficient to meet the demand of LPG, and

(b) if not, the efforts of the Government to make the country self-sufficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) (a) Potential demand of LPG has been considerably higher than the indigenous production

(b) Plans have been drawn to augment the LPG availability in the country by commissioning of new sources and higher production from the existing sources Plans have also been drawn to develop new LPG import facilities and augment the capacity of existing import facilities Government has also allowed import and sale of LPG by private agencies through their own net-work at market determined prices

Baharul Islam Committee

2468 SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIOUE Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) the main recommendations made by the Baharul Islam Committee on the handicapped

(b) the details of recommendations which have been accepted by the Government and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the implementation of these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) (a) The Baharul Islam Committee had made following main recommendations—

I Enactment of legislation providing for—

- (i) Setting up of a National Trust for the Mentally Retarded and Cerebral Palsied
- (ii) Setting up of a Board for Handicapped Welfare alongwith Commissioner for handicapped Welfare who could function as Member Secretary to the Board,
- (iii) to provide for reservation in services in Government sect (Central Government offices and Central Public Sector Undertakings) to the extent of 1% for each of the three categories, namely, visually handicapped, speech and hearing handicapped in Group C and D services only already existing under executive orders since 1977

II To provide through executive instructions—

- (i) reservation in vocational training institutions and institutions of higher education to the extent of 1% for each of the three categories viz visually handicapped, speech and hearing handicapped and orthopaedically handicapped,