

- III. Special jury award carrying silver peacock and a cash prize of Rs. 2.50 lakhs shared by two films, "The Blue Veiled" by Iranian director Rakshan Bani Etemad and "The Freedom Gang" by Leyla Assaf Tengroth from Lebanon.

Import of Gas from Oman/Iran

410. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

(a) whether discussions with Oman/Iran regarding import of natural gas have been concluded;

(b) if so, the decision arrived at; and

(c) if not, the time by which these are expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible at present to indicate the time by which these discussion would be concluded.

Jails in the Country

411. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Right Commission visited some of the jails in the country and found them filthy, dirty and unfit for loading human beings therein; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) and (b). The National Human Rights Commission did visit a number of jails in the country. The Commission found that the situation in the prisons visited was varied and complex. While it found some jails over crowded, there were some underutilized. Similarly, while the Commission saw a few jails which were notably clean and where the diet was reasonable, it came across many others, which were squalid. In each instance, the Commission gave its

views and recommendations in regard to the institutions visited directly to the State Governments.

'Prisons' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with any matter relating to the administration of prison according to their rules, regulations, procedure and provisions of jails manuals. However, the Central Government has felt continued cause for concern over the less than satisfactory conditions of prisons in the country. To supplement the efforts of State Governments to improve living conditions of prisons, health hygiene and security arrangements etc., Government of India had introduced a scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration during 1987, and released an amount of Rs. 45 crores during the period 1987-92. The scheme has further been extended for the Eighth Plan period with an allocation of Rs. 100 crores for the period.

LPG Connections

412. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for L.P.G. connections since 1989 in Trivandrum; and

(b) the time by which the L.P.G. connections are likely to be provided to all the above applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections since 1989 in Trivandrum is 27626 as on 1.1.1996.

(b) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Trivandrum, depending upon the availability of LPG, New customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability.

[Translation]

Custodial Deaths

413. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of custodial deaths in Delhi during the current year;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action being taken against the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c). Upto 15.2.1996 one case of death in police custody has been reported in Delhi in 1996.

On 2.1.1996 one Shri Indal was caught stealing a car stereo and cassettes by the car owner and his friends in the area of Police Station Mehrauli. The accomplice with Indal managed to escape with the stolen goods whereas Indal was caught and beaten up by the public. A case under section 379 IPC was registered at P.S. Mehrauli. After medical examination, when the medical officer certified Indal to be under the influence of alcohol, the accused was sent inside the lock-up in Police Station Mehrauli. After he omitted he was removed to AIIMS where he was declared brought dead on 3.1.1996.

Sub Divisional Magistrate (South) conducted the Inquest Proceedings and in her interim report found the circumstantial evidence and deposition of witnesses, including that of medical officer, indicating towards a suspected death in police custody and recommended necessary legal action against four police officials and two public men.

A case FIR No. 9/96 under section 304 IPC P.S. Mehrauli. Departmental enquiry has been ordered.

Post Offices in Kanpur Dehat

414. SHRI KESRI LAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to open Post Offices in all the Villages of Kanpur Dehat is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Post Offices are opened under Annual Plan Scheme progressively, subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Coal Pilferage

415. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry has evolved any viable mechanism to curb pilferage of Coal in transit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (b). The ownership of Coal Companies ceases with the loading of coal into the railway wagons. It is the statutory responsibility of the carrier/law and order enforcing authorities to curb enroute pilferage of coal. Therefore the responsibility of preventing enroute pilferage/ theft of coal should really be discharged by those to whom it rightly belongs. However, Coal Companies extend necessary cooperation to the Railways and law enforcing agencies in curbing theft/ pilferage of coal in transit.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections

416. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants for telephone connections in the country during 1995 and the number of persons out of them provided with telephone connection; and

(b) the number of persons on the waiting list as on December 31, 1995 and the time by which telephone connection will be provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) A total of 19,21,306 applicants register for Telephone Connections from 1.1.1995 to 31.12.1995. A total of 19,94,718 Telephone Connections have been provided during the above period.

(b) The waiting list as on 31.12.1995 is 25,09,790. Telephones to these wait listed persons are likely to be provided by 31.3.1997. National Telecom Policy, 1994 envisages telephone on demand throughout the Country by 1997. For meeting this objective, private sector is also being permitted in the basic telephone service field to supplement the efforts of DOT.

Supply of sub-standard coal

417. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints from some States regarding the supply of sub-standard coal to Thermal Power Stations during the last two years;