

maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG Bottling plants during extended hours to clear the backlog and arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas. There is no LPG backlog in the State of Gujarat as reported by PSU oil companies.

Release of 50% Central Share for SC/ST

1387. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for the release of 50% Central Share for the Kerala Institute for Research Training and Development studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has not furnished information about the provision of State's share in their budget and also the information regarding utilisation of funds released to them as Central share during the financial year 1997-98 has not been furnished. On receipt of this information, the proposal will be processed for releasing Central share to the State Government.

Goitre Cases

1388. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of goitre patients and the diseases arising due to lack of iodine supplied before and after the ban on non-iodised salt; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Surveys of impact-evaluation of iodised salt on the prevalence of goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders conducted from time to time in different parts of the country have revealed significant reduction in the disorders caused due to nutritional Iodine Deficiency.

(b) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme, is being implemented in the country. The programme strategy includes Iodine Deficiency Disorders surveys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of Iodine content of salt as well as urinary Iodine Excretion and health education to increase public awareness.

Funds for Public Sector Undertakings

1389. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5887 on 28th July 1998 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Officers in Public Sector Undertakings are allowed to raise funds for activities other than for the welfare of the undertakings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and;

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty Officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Part information, received from ONGC, is being examined in the Ministry. The remaining information is being obtained.

AIDS Control Programme

1390. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the virus of AIDS is spreading to the general population of the country;

(b) if so, whether the National AIDS Committee has called for strengthening and intensifying the prevention and control of AIDS particularly in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the spreading of virus of AIDS-in the country in general population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Sir, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, a comprehensive programme is currently under implementation throughout the country as a Centrally sponsored scheme. The main strategy consists of:—

- Strengthening Programme Management capabilities at Central and State level.
- Creation of awareness amongst high risk behaviour groups and general public about HIV/AIDS
- Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
- Promoting blood safety and rationalise of blood through proper licensing of blood banks and encouraging voluntary blood donation.
- Strengthening capacity for surveillance & diagnosis; and
- Extending training in Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS.

[*Translation*]

AIDS among Prisoners

1391. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of AIDS among prisoners have come to light in several States during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in future by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) As 'prisons' is a State subject as per Entry 4 of List-II—State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, information concerning incidence of various diseases, including AIDS, among prisoners is not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) It is primarily for the State Governments to take necessary measures to prevent the spread of AIDS and other diseases among prisoners. However, the Government of India has been sending advisories, and providing financial assistance, to the States in order to improve the condition of prisons and prisoners.

[*English*]

Medical Specialists/Physicians of CGHS

1392. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Medical Specialists/Physicians of CGHS who have been working for more than 12 years since their initial posting/appointment at the same Medical Centres/Hospitals;

(b) the details of those who have been promoted to specialists Grade-I at the same place with the reasons therefor;

(c) the policy of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government as per the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Ten Medical Specialists/Physicians of CGHS have been working for more than 12 years since their initial posting/appointment at the same place as per attached statement.

(b) and (c) Specialist Officers are promoted to Specialist Grade-I on time bound basis on completion of eight years of service. The promotion does not necessitate change of place as the basic duties do not change.

(d) In view of (b) & (c), no action is needed.