

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of intelligence agencies under Union Government and State Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the major incidents and mishaps are faced by the country due to the failure of these intelligence agencies; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government, to make intelligence agencies more dedicated to their duties?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Central Government constantly reviews the working of its Intelligence Agencies of the State Governments function under the control of respective State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Intelligence Agencies of Central Government are dedicated their duties and are fully geared to gather information about any undesirable activities which may lead to any mishap.

Oil Refinery Project

2535. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

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

(a) the number of oil refinery projects whose work have been delayed and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) 15 projects pertaining to oil refineries and their units have been delayed. The reasons for the delay include late deliveries of plant and equipment, the performance of contractors, delay in finalising licences and engineering packages, non-receipt of statutory clearances, transportation problems associated with heavy equipment, etc.

(b) Regular Project meetings are held both by the companies and by the Government to monitor the progress and to expedite action.

[English]

Thyroid Cases

2536. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming rise in the Thyroid problems among urbanites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to combat the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) There is no scientific data published to demonstrate alarming rise in the incidents of thyroid problem among urbanities. However, Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) are widely prevalent in the country. Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and other institutions clearly indicated that no State/UT is free from the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Out of 275 districts surveyed so far in 25 States and 4 UTs, 235 districts are endemic where the prevalence is more than 10%.

(c) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in the country. The programme strategy includes IDD surveys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion and Health Education to increase the public awareness.

Refilling Plant in U.P.

2537. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation of Bharat Petroleum Co. had decided to set up the refilling plant of L.P.G. near Pihani in U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. The demand of U.P. is being met by the existing capacity of Industry LPG bottling plants which is 412 TMTA. As per OCC approval, additional capacity to the tune of 664 TMTA will be added by Industry as part of facilities during VIII Plan and IX Plan in U.P. through bottling plants at different identified locations and this will be sufficient to meet the projected requirement of LPG in U.P. estimated at 1025.315 TMTA by the end of IX Plan.

The LPG bottling plants are set up based on techno-economic study by Industry/OCC.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

National Commission for Minorities

2538. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: