

with the practice followed now as a result of which people who have registered 15 years ago have yet to get gas connections; and

(b) If so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop this practice and prescribe some procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) It is mandatory for the PSU Oil Company's distributors to maintain a waitlist register for registration of prospective customer wishing to avail of an LPG connection. As per the existing practice, no registration fee for booking a gas connection is being charged. On examining the alternative of charging fee for registration, it has not been found feasible.

New LPG connections are released strictly on the basis of seniority in the waitlist maintained by distributors within the allocation given by the PSU Oil Companies. The waitlist maintained by the distributor is periodically scrutinised/checked by the field officers while carrying out the quarterly inspections/annual audits.

Oil companies conduct elaborate regular/surprise checks and inspections of functioning of their LPG distributors and also investigate complaints. Suitable action is taken against the distributors who are found to be indulging in malpractices including out of turn release of LPG connections as per the revised LPG marketing discipline guidelines.

In April 1997, Govt. decided to release LPG connections on demand to all the persons registered prior to 1.1.1991 progressively by September, 1997 and the entire pending waiting list prior to 1.1.1991 has been liquidated by the oil industry.

#### Supply of Substitutes Against Indented Medicines to CGHs Deneficiaries

2601. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CGHS beneficiaries are getting indented medicines prescribed by specialists within 24 hours;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the dispensaries are accepting the substitutes of the medicine prescribed by the specialist doctors;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard during the each of the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to provide

the prescribed medicines to the beneficiaries within the time limit prescribed for indented medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Generally, indented medicines including those prescribed by the Specialists are supplied to the CGHS beneficiaries within 24 hours or on the next working day. In the case of emergency, an Authority Slip is issued permitting the beneficiaries to collect the medicines from the authorised local chemists directly, without making any payment.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) In accordance with the instructions issued in this regard, the CGHS dispensaries should not accept the substitutes of medicines prescribed by the Specialists.

(d) A total of 15 complaints were received during the last three years under CGHS, Delhi.

(e) Procedure followed for providing prescribed medicines within the time limit is as at (a) above.

#### Foreigners Cheated by Custom Officials and Travel Agents

2602. SHEI SADASHIVRAO DADOBBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of foreigners have been cheated by the Custom officials and travel agents at Indira Gandhi International Airport and elsewhere in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Indian travellers cheated by the custom officials and travel agents during the last three years;

(d) whether a large number of travel-counters have been functioning in the name of helping foreigners/tourists at Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any arrangement has been made to protect innocent foreigners/tourists/Indian travellers from custom officials and travel agents;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the number of custom officials and travel agents who have been arrested or suspended for this offence during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) While there was no case of cheating of foreign/Indian travellers by Customs officials reported to Delhi Police at Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last three years (upto 30.11.98), the number of cases in which the travel agents were alleged to have cheated such travellers during the same period is indicated below:

	1996	1997	1998 (upto 30.11.98)
Foreign travellers	5	1	2
Indian travellers	73	73	72

Delhi Police does not maintain any information about persons cheated elsewhere in the country.

(d) and (e) There are at present six travel counters functioning at the Air Port which are managed by India Tourist Development Corporation, Delhi Tourism, Punjab Tourism, Nitin Jain Taxi Counter/Service, Ex-Servicemen Airlink Transport Service Ltd., and Rental Car Service respectively.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. The steps taken at Indira Gandhi International Airport to protect the foreign/Indian travellers from unscrupulous elements include the following :-

- Boards have been installed at the Airport giving names and telephone numbers of supervisory officers who could be contacted by the travellers;
  - Facility for free telephone has been provided at the Airport;
  - The Vigilance staff of Customs as well as Delhi Police keep a watch over activities of suspicious elements;
  - Anti-touring staff has been deployed at parking lots and near Pre-paid Taxi Booths.
  - Traffic as well as local police maintain constant watch at Pre-paid Booths and check Reliability Certificates of the Taxis.
  - The police personnel on duty regularly take rounds at vulnerable points during peak traffic hours; and
  - District police has been alerted to intensify checking of violation of rules by Hotels and Guest Houses.
- (h) While there was no case in which a Customs official was arrested in connection with the offence of cheating during the last three years (upto 30.11.98) the number of travel agents arrested in Delhi during the same period is as under:-

Year	Number of persons arrested
1996	90
1997	82
1998 (upto 30.11.98)	101

#### Inclusion of Territorial Boundary of Manipur in Cease-Fire

2603. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the territorial boundary of Manipur is included in the cease-fire area specified in the on-going negotiation between the Union Government and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (M);

(b) if so, whether it was done with the consent of the Government of Manipur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) The current cease fire is between the Government of India and the NSCN (IM) as an organisation. The decision has been taken by the Government of India.

#### Literacy Among Girl

2604. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme to improve literacy among girl children in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalaya Scheme formulated by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is meant to improve the literacy rate among women belonging to backward communities such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, other backward communities and Minorities in Districts where their literacy rate is less than 10% is still under process for obtaining final approval of Government for its various elements and for deciding on the Ministry/Department which should take up its implementation.

#### Environmental Clearance for Oman Refinery Project

2605. SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL :

SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :

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