

(c) and (d) Major reasons for delay and steps taken thereof are:—

- (i) Shortage of Labour Courts in States/Union Territories.
- (ii) Filling up of vacancies of the post of Presiding Officer takes time.
- (iii) Procedural impediments such as absence of affected parties at the time of hearing, adjournments sought by parties to file documents etc.
- (iv) Expeditious steps are taken to fill up posts of Presiding Officers in Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts after observing all necessary formalities.
- (v) Presiding Officers are also impressed upon about the need to reduce pendency of Industrial Disputes Cases in their Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts.

[Translation]

Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas

3754. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any long term policy for liquefied natural gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) If not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the role of interested private companies in the liquefied natural gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The import of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) is on the OGL and, therefore, LNG can be imported, regassified and marketed by any party whether in the private sector or public sector. There are several private initiatives with regard to import of LNG and approval of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board has also been given in cases where foreign equity is involved.

[English]

List of VDIS leaked to Under-World

3755. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the list of Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme was leaked to the under-world, which used it for extortion; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to identify and punish the officials held responsible?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Private Cars for Security Duties of VVIPs

3756. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have engaged private cars for security duties of VVIPs;
- (b) if so, whether it is a violation of Motor Vehicle Act and also the Insurance Act; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation and hiring of commercial cars for the security duty of VVIPs?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) No, Sir. No private cars are used in the security of VVIPs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Procurement of Rice

3757. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rice procured from rice millers under the levy scheme during the last three years have become substandard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;