

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The request received from the consumers for payment of charges in instalments is allowed subject to the payment of surcharge at the rate of 3% per cent on the deferred payment.

(g) After the installation of the in-house computer system, some shortcomings were observed in the software which are being progressively rectified.

Bhatinda Oil Refinery

3775. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given approval to oil Refinery project in Bhatinda;

(b) if so, whether the construction work has been started on this project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Demarcation work is in progress in respect of 2,000 acres of land acquired for the project. Order has also been placed for construction of boundary wall.

Smile for All National Oral Health Programme

3776. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched a "Smile for All National Oral Health Programme" to generate awareness about oral health hygiene among school children;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of schools covered and number of children so far provided this awareness programme:

(d) whether this programme has been launched all over the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and further strategy chalked out to promote health among school children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG through Pipelines

3777. SHRI JANARDAJI PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to supply LPG through pipelines in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide such facility in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the names of other States to whom such facility is proposed to be provided; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Presently, there is no proposal of the Public Sector Oil companies to supply LPG to consumers through cross-country pipelines in the country. However, there is a proposal of M/s. GAIL to lay a pipeline from Kandla/Jamnagar terminating at Loni via Delhi for Bulk Transportation of LPG to meet the LPG requirements of the Bottling Plants, primarily in the Northern Region. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of April, 2001.

The main reason for not considering supply of LPG through Pipeline to household consumers is high cost involved in laying the pipeline network and safety reasons due to absence of any foolproof system to ensure safety of the pipeline network passing through public places in a city/town.

[English]

Shelter to ISI Agents and Militants

3778. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ISI agents and militants of Lashkar-e-Toiba have taken shelter in Mosques and Madarsas in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) As per available information, a Pak national who was allegedly involved in a series of bomb blast cases in Delhi had stayed in a Madrasa in Shergarh, district Bareilly, in November-December, 1996.

(c) Government is aware of the sinister designs of Pak ISI to destabilise India by sponsoring terrorism and subversive activities in different parts of the country including its efforts to target and train misguided youth for engineering violence. A close and continuous watch is, therefore, being kept on the situation and all necessary efforts, including sustained operations against terrorists and subversive elements, are being made to ensure that such designs are not allowed to succeed.

Supply of LPG to Tea Garden

3779. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk supply of LPG cylinders for the workers of Tea Garden has been stopped;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken for supply of LPG in forest contiguous areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The scheme of release of LPG connections under single subscription vouchers scheme including for the workers of Tea gardens has been stopped by DIOC on the direction of the Govt. in the interest of preventing discrimination. There is no justification for giving priority connections on bulk basis when large waiting lists are there. Such workers may get themselves registered with the nearby LPG distributors for supply of LPG cylinders individually.

(c) In order to protect the forests in hilly areas, Government has allowed release of LPG connections across the counter at the locations situated above altitude of 2000 ft. MSL in all the hilly areas.

Development Corporation for Backward Classes

3780. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra Government for setting up of a separate Development Corporation for Backward Classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the assistance provided to the Maharashtra Government for the said corporation; and

(d) the number of persons to be benefited therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No Sir, the setting up of Development Corporation for Backward Classes by the State Government does not require approval of the Central Government.

(c) No assistance is provided by the Central Government for setting up of such corporations.

(d) Does not arise.

Appointment of Class-IV Staff

3781. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any direction to all the Ministries/State Governments/Banks/Financial Institutions/PSUs and other Government Organisations to recruit regular employees on permanent basis for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of office premises;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in view of the directions of Supreme Court thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Central Government have prohibited employment of contract labour in the jobs of sweeping, cleaning, dusting and watching of buildings