

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Southern Gas Grid has not been conceived to meet the LPG demand as such.

[Translation]

Salient aspects on SCs/STs for Development

4100. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government received a number of reports from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of the salient points made therein;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government have issued any orders recently for reducing the percentage of SCs/STs reservations to 5% and 4% respectively;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the specific rationales for such changes?

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

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in discharge of its duties under Section 2 clause (5) sub-clause (d) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990 presented its Annual Reports. As per Section 6 of the Act, the Reports alongwith Action Taken Report are to be laid on the Table of the House.

Salient points of the report and action taken could be revealed once the reports are laid on the Table of the House.

- (d) No Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) Does not arise.

[English]

Shortage of Oil and Petroleum Product

4101. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

- (a) whether the recent cyclone at the Kandla Port has its impact on availability of oil and petroleum products in Northern region;
- (b) whether shortage of petroleum products has affected several other cities also;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the contingency plan evolved to ward off shortage of diesel and cooking gas and petroleum products; and
- (e) the time by which Kandla-Bhatinda (Punjab) pipeline is likely to be started normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) All POL related operations including LPG were suspended at Kandla with effect from 9.6.1998 following a severe cyclonic storm. This affected the product availability in Northern Region to some extent. But no shortage to meet the demand in all parts of the country was allowed to occur.

By undertaking movement from alternative sources and utilizing the inventories, full demand of all petroleum products was met throughout the country including Northern Region, whose product demand is met partially through imports from Kandla.

(d) The following actions have been planned and taken to ward off shortage of diesel, LPG and other petroleum products:-

- (i) Maximization of indigenous production.
- (ii) Road/rail movement of POL products maximized to the Northern Region from alternate sources.
- (iii) A Task Force has been constituted by MoP & NG for reviewing the situation periodically.
- (iv) The situation is being closely monitored for ensuring expeditious restoration of port facilities at Kandla. Most of the POL handling facilities at Kandla have already been restored, except LPG. Major distribution channel from Kandla, namely, Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline, has become fully operational and rail and road despatch has also commenced ex-Kandla.
- (v) Augmentation of LPG imports at Mangalore.