

(f) the steps taken to accede to their request?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA) : (a) and (b) There are 127 ESI Hospitals & 1443 dispensaries functioning in 22 States/Union Territories.

(c) As on 31.3.97, there were 77.31 lakh employees and their families eligible for medical care being provided in the ESI dispensaries. As number of the dispensaries is quite large, it is somewhat difficult to give details of the persons who actually benefitted dispensary-wise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) There are proposals for construction of new ESI Hospitals at Peenaya and Bamasandra in Karnataka, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and Ferozabad in Uttar Pradesh. There is also a proposal for conversion of 225 bed ESI Chest Diseases Hospital at Naroda, Gujarat into a 300 bed General Hospital with a separate block for T.B. Beds. The Corporation has also received proposals for opening new ESI Dispensaries at Kumarmangalam in Kerala and at Nitravillai, Edaicode, Kuzhiturai and Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu. New ESI hospitals/dispensaries are set up generally on the basis of need. Accordingly the ESIC is already taking necessary action in the matter keeping in view the norms/guidelines prescribed by the Corporation.

#### Supply of Diesel to Farmers

4940. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI :  
SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to supply diesel/petrol to the farmers at concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any date regarding consumption of diesel/petrol by farmers;

(d) if so, the quantum of Diesel/petrol sanctioned and consumed by farmers during each of the last three years; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) There is no such proposal.

(c) to (e) At the time of effecting sales at Retail Outlets, no record is kept of the intended end use of the product. To assess the profile of users of Petrol (MS) and Diesel (HSD) through retail outlets (RO), market study was conducted by IMRB in 1991. Based on the percentage sales for Tractors/Pumpsets/Tillers/Thrashers from ROs and direct sales for agriculture operations, the estimated quantity of sale of Diesel and Petrol for Agriculture for the last three years in accordance with the norms provided by above agency is as under:

(Figures in thousand tonnes)

	HSD	MS
1995-96	5762	1
1996-97	5851	1
1997-98	6002	1

[Translation]

#### Consumer Organisations

4941. SHRI SHILENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of consumer organisations in the country at present State-wise;

(b) whether these organisations are unable to function due to being neglected by the Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide assistance for active participation of these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) As per the latest information available, there are 1332 consumer organisations in the country. The State-wise number of consumer organisations is given in the Statement enclosed.