

any such case, I would certainly assure the House that we will see to it that that type of victimisation or terrorism is stopped. But, for once at least, Shri Mukherjee has spoken about the Officers' Association. Many an officer, I must submit, have developed vested interests. I have myself looked into it. These Officers' Association had been creating the problem because of the vested interests that they have developed over the years. When once we have started transferring them from one place to the other, they start creating the problem. They have even threatened to the extent of saying that they would go on strike. Well, we have stood the ground. In fact I notice that many an officer is sitting at one place for twenty years and, if I take action, be it in the Petroleum Department or be it in the Coal Department, these things start coming in the newspapers that I am upsetting the apple-cart. This is how things started coming out. But in spite of that I would like to submit that if there is any motivation either on my part or on the part of the Coal India Ltd., I would not mind making a clean breast of myself before this House. Sir, if it is in the larger interest of the nation that we have got to unsettle some persons who have become vested interests and are creating problems, I would beseech of the House to support us. If there is any case of victimisation and terrorism be it of an officer or of a worker, I assure the House that we will see to it that such a thing does not take place because primarily it will create problems for the production and the national interest would be jeopardised. There is no question of personal approach in these matters. One has got to solve these problems in the larger context of the things but if it is a question of discipline and making the efforts for better production, I would request that the House should support me.

Infiltration of Defective L.P.G. Cylinders into Indian Oil Corporation Refinery at Baroda

*103. SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been

drawn to the news item in the Indian Express of 1 September, 1983 about the alleged infiltration of a large number of unauthorised, defective L.P.G. cylinders into the oil refinery of the Indian Oil Corporation at Baroda ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to totally stop smuggling of such spurious cylinders, which are not only susceptible to leakage but also pose a serious threat to the Refinery complex, along with regular ones for refilling at the bottling plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To check injection of spurious cylinders in the distribution system, constant vigilance and inspections are carried out at various points. At the bottling plant, cylinders are checked before and after filling in order to ensure their genuineness. In addition, regular inspection of distributors godowns are carried by the field officers of the oil companies to identify presence of any spurious cylinder.

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Sir, rejected cylinders are welded by unscrupulous business men and supplied to the Indian Oil along with new ones. The Minister has admitted that this practice is going on but unless a section of officers and employees are in league with the suppliers this practice cannot go on for a long time. So, I would like to know whether a section of officers and employees are in league with suppliers of fake cylinders ?

SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA : I am sorry it is not so. It is only because of the vigilance of our officers that 31 spurious cylinders could be found within April 1983 to October, 1983 and, therefore, how can I say that they are in league ?

SHRI SUSHIL BHATTACHARYA : Sir, the general consumer suffers on ac-

count of unusual delay in gas supply as well as under-weight of gas cylinders. Also may I know whether the Minister is aware of the mal-practice of gas cylinders being supplied to other parties for a consideration or payment of something extra for an early supply.

SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA : This is quite a different question.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : May I know whether government is aware of the fact that because of spurious cylinder and when there was leakage on Diwali day five deaths occurred in one family and some 18 persons were injured. Will Government take action into such instances to compensate those who met this fate ?

SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA : Sir, I have noted what Sharmaji had said and if it is found that it is our mistake then I will take necessary steps.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : Sir, in part (a) of the question it is said that a news items has appeared alleging about the infiltration of cylinders which were not genuine. The system of manufacture of gas cylinders is that one of the ISI man is there in the premises. Unless the Inspector in the premises passes those cylinders, they cannot be despatched to the refinery or the oil company. They are marked with Serial number, they are marked with the name of the manufacture, they are marked with the initial by the inspector, then how did these cylinders found a way inside the refinery in spite of these precautions ?

SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA : We found 31 defective cylinders out of these 20 lakh cylinders within this period. So, out of the supply of those cylinders, only 31 were found defective. Now, the point how they were detected is because they were detected, so they were detected.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : Sir, it is not the point that out of 20 lakhs

only 31 cylinders were spurious. The point is how these cylinders could go into the system. One spurious cylinder can take the life of many people. It is not the question of only 31 cylinders were found spurious out these numbers. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : Sir, I draw your attention to a serious matter. Here even lives are involved and the hon. Minister has taken this question very light-heartedly. Sir, you ask the hon. Minister to be serious enough in answering such questions.

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR : Sir, in Madras also, there were such cases. There were leakages in gas cylinders. Moreover, the consumers are supplied with three-fourth quantity of gas in the cylinders. The hon. Minister is answering this question in a very light-hearted manner. It affects every family. It is very bad.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : Sir, we are aware of the complaints that the Hon. Members are making. Not that we are not aware of the complaints. Actually the question that was asked by Mr. Jain is not withstanding the fact that the ISI man is there, how is it that these spurious cylinders have crept into the process ? It is not at the manufacturing stage that these spurious cylinders were found. But the cylinders when they came to the bottling plant for the purposes of getting them bottled so that again they can be issued and in process they could go to the distributors and then to the consumers. So at the bottling plant that these spurious cylinders were found. At that stage they found that 31 cylinders were spurious. It is not at the stage of the manufacturing. At the manufacturing stage, the ISI man is there. This is what I wanted to explain.

Transmission Lines for National Grid

*105. **SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :