

there is a lobby working against this project going to the Southern area. May I know, from the hon. Minister that irrespective of the assurance of Government of Oman, whether the Government is committed to give the Southern gas grid from Bombay High to Kerala? Is there any priority to Kerala? We want to ensure that it comes to Kerala.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, let me assure the hon. Member that besides the Oman gas, which is going to be a major breakthrough as far as the availability of natural gas in the country is concerned, additional gas also would become available from the Bombay Off-shore region due to intensive exploration, offer of commercial sale of energy of about five million standard cubic metres a day for the Southern gas grid made available by M/s. Kenron. A terminal is to be set up by them. In addition to that, I was mentioning that 50 to 55 million standard cubic metres a day of gas will be available from Oman.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Reddaiah Yadav may ask the question. The Member from the West coast States have asked the question. Let the Members from Eastern coast States ask. now.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for having contracted the Oman Government to lay the gas pipeline to the Southern States. I want to know from the hon. Minister that the last point for the proposed pipeline for the Southern States should be Visakhapatnam where there is a lot of potential for industrial development. I want to know whether they are contemplating to have Visakhapatnam as the last point or not. It should not be like the water dispute. For Andhra Pradesh you should not bring it to Hyderabad and leave it there. It should be upto Visakhapatnam which is the last point in the coastal districts of the State, I want a clarification from the

hon. Minister in this regard.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, at this stage, it will not be possible to get into this question of where the land-fall point is going to be, though studies are under way. Once the report is ready, we will know due to techno-economic consideration—where the land-fall point should be in the best interest of the supply and it will be decided.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that the proposal of laying gas pipeline from the Western Off-shore to the Southern region has been approved. I would like to know categorically what would be the quantum of surplus gas to be used in this area.

I would also like to know whether there is any proposal in this context that the pipeline will go to Paradeep port in the Eastern region.

Sir, my question is what would be the surplus quantum of gas by laying this pipeline from western side to southern side and whether there is any proposal that it will also be extended to Paradeep in the Eastern region.

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, we are only discussing the Southern Gas Grid.

Kerosene to States

[Translation]

*147. SHRI DILEEPBHAI
SANGHANI:
SHRI HARIN PATHAK:

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

(a) the criteria fixed for monthly alloca-

tion of kerosene quota to State by the Union Government;

(b) whether the quantum of kerosene allocated monthly to various States/Union Territories is sufficient;

(c) if not, the reasons for not increasing the quota;

(d) whether any State Government has requested to increase its quota; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (e). Allocations of SKO to States/UTs are made on historical basis. Kerosene is a deficit product. More than one third of the total requirement in the country has to be imported. Due to foreign exchange constraint and heavy subsidy involved, it has not been possible for Government to meet the increasing demands from the States/UTs, although many State Governments have requested for the same.

Government have allowed some additional imports during 1993-94 for making higher allocation to States.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one third of the requirement of the Kerosene oil is imported. The Government spends foreign exchange on importing luxury items which are generally used by the rich whereas the kerosene oil is generally used by the poor and the common masses. Therefore, you should import kerosene oil in more quantity. How much kerosene oil you are going to import this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to import more Kerosene oil this year?

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, as compared to 1992-93 where we were importing 8.4 million cubic metres tonnes and where the quantity of SKO to the States was of the level of 8.4 million cubic metres tonnes, in 1993-94, current year, we are increasing that to 8.75 million cubic metres tonnes.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI: Mr. Speaker Sir, what is the demand of Kerosene oil of Gujarat. What does the Government propose to do for the diamond industry and fishermen?

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, as the hon. Member is aware, kerosene is a highly subsidised item. In 1992-93 the amount involved in the subsidy for kerosene was Rs. 3.145 crores. This year it is going up to Rs. 4.172 crores. Because of financial constraints, it is not possible to increase the levels of import beyond this year.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are well aware about the problems arising due to non-availability of kerosene oil. In Ahmedabad and other small cities of Gujarat, non-availability of kerosene oil has led to three murders last year. These quarrels take place when there are long queues for getting Kerosene oil and people do not get kerosene. Ultimately, this problem has arisen due to Gujarat Government not getting full quota of Kerosene. The Government of Gujarat requested on 27th August 1992, 9 December and 19th February that

considering the special situation there, its quota should be increased. I want to know from the Government whether it is going to increase the kerosene quota of Gujarat Government?

[English]

CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA: Sir, the fact of the matter is that it is not only in Gujarat, but the pressing demand for additional kerosene supplies is coming from all over the country. To improve the situation, I believe the Public Distribution System needs to be strengthened up on the one hand and on the other hand, to augment the supply, we have introduced the parallel marketing system. This will augment the supply through the Public Distribution System. But, through the Public Distribution System divergence is taking place at the State Government level. Instead of reaching the targeted group, the poorest of the poor, it is being diverted. If the State Governments, through their administration, can ensure that there is no divergence of this kerosene which is being given to the various States, the situation will vastly improve.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Tubewell Projects in Bihar

[English]

*143. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released the funds for the World Bank aided tubewell projects in Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cholera and Gastroenteritis

[Translation]

*148. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:

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

(a) whether several deaths have been reported in the country due to Gastroenteritis and Cholera during May-June, 1993:

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Some deaths from Cholera and Gastroenteritis are reported every year during summer months. Complete information from all the States for May and June 93 is not available. However, there has been no report of any major epidemic during this period.

(c) The measures normally taken by the health authorities to check these diseases are: