

ISI Activities in N.E. States

431. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to seek the help of INTERPOL in view of the increased ISI activities in the North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A series of steps have been taken, including legal measures and diplomatic initiatives to curb and contain terrorist and criminal activities in the North-East. One of the measures contemplated is to take appropriate legal action in cooperation, inter-alia, with the INTERPOL against some top terrorist and criminal elements responsible for terrorist, violent and criminal activities in the North-East, who have managed to remain and move in countries outside India.

Workshop on Victims of Rape

432. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether a workshop on "victims of rape intervention and strategies" was held in Delhi on January 29, 1996;

(b) if so, the suggestions and observations made at the workshop; and

(c) the decisions taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF. M. KAMSON): (a) to (c): A meeting of the expert committee on legal matters constituted by the National Commission for Women was held on 19 and 23rd Jan., 1996. Certain amendments to the rape laws for the protection of women suggested by the expert Committee would be useful in strengthening the steps being taken by Government with regard to the crimes against women and children.

[Translation]

Security on LPG Connections

433. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected throughout the country by Indian

Oil Corporation Limited, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited as security deposit from consumers at the time of providing LPG connections;

(b) the mode of utilization of this fund by these organisations;

(c) whether the above mentioned organisations are liable to pay interest to consumers on this security deposit; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) to (d). An amount of Rs. 900 per cylinder and Rs. 100 per regulator is taken as security deposit by the oil companies for all new connections and additional cylinder. However, for North Eastern Region rate of security deposit is Rs. 500 per cylinder and Rs. 50 per regulator.

The deposit is taken by the oil companies as security against LPG equipment loaned to the customer and is refundable as and when the equipment is surrendered.

The Deposit is utilised to maintain adequate inventory of LPG equipments in usable condition at all times so as to service the customer's requirements. On an average 1.5 cylinder per customer is required to be maintained by the oil companies for servicing their requirements. Hence, no interest is paid on the Security deposit.

Privatisation of Telecom Directories

434. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to privatise the publication and distribution of Telecom Directories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Theft of Foreign Articles

435. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: