

ment firewood cannot be cut from the forest. In view of the above, would the hon. Minister kindly assure whether he has any special provision for providing cooking gas in the hill districts and also open more number of outlets for gas agencies.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member would be pleased to know that as far as hill districts—as determined and listed by the Planning Commission—are concerned, a subsidy is given for the hill districts. The subsidy for the LPG is more for the hill districts. The freight is not charged from the storage point in the plains to the distribution point in the hills. The extra expense goes into the oil pool account. This is to encourage greater utilisation of LPG in the hill districts which are essentially in the environmentally fragile areas so that we can replace the use of firewood which would cause denudation of forests. Giving special preference to the hill districts is a part of our oil distribution policy.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just now said that there are seven lakh consumers on the waiting list and there is a plan to release five lakh connections. Will the waiting list always continue? Whether Government proposes to start another plan after clearing the waiting list? The waiting list still exists and later on more people will apply. Whether Government proposes to continue the waiting list for ever?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not a question like this.

(Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : You please ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : I am asking whether there is any plan to clear the waiting list?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, I have answered in the main question that it is the determined effort of the Government to reduce the waiting list. But there is a gap between the demand and the supply. There is a constraint in the production of LPG indigenously because the LPG is produced from the gas in gas breaking wells and the oil in the refineries. There is a constraint in the imports due to foreign exchange as well as the infrastructural facilities for imports. Therefore, the availability of LPG can be increased only at a certain rate. The waiting list will, therefore, always be there because only five lakh connections are being given now. Ten lakh connections would be given next year. From 1995 onwards, we hope to increase the rate of giving connections to forty lakhs per year. At that time we hope the waiting list can perhaps be eliminated.

[Translation]

Tourism Development at places of Kumbh Mela

*570. **SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the special arrangements being made for development of tourism at places where 'Kumbh Mela' is being held and specially for the 'Singhasth Kumbh' to be held in Ujjain in April, 1992?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK): Development and promotion of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Tourism provides central financial assistance on specific proposals in consultation with State Governments, subject to availability of funds, their merit and inter-se priorities.

In connection with Singhasth Kumbh Mela scheduled to be held in Ujjain in April, 1992, the Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned a 60-bedded Yatri Niwas to be constructed at Ujjain.

Besides, funds have been earmarked for printing of publicity material for the Singhasth Kumbh Mela being held in Ujjain in April, 1992.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 'Kumbh Mela' is a great festival of national integration and culture. People gather there without any invitation. Crores of people assemble there on their own. Such a place becomes self developed tourist spot. I would request the hon. Minister through you that Haridwar, Prayag.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You kindly ask the question.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: You also belong to Maharashtra. Such a festival is also held at Nasik. My submission is that millions of people are likely to throng Ujjain in April, 1992 on the occasion of Singhasth.

The Ministry has given approval for Yatri Niwas.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You ask the question as to what arrangements are being made by the Government for such a great festival.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: It is better that you are asking the question on my part.

Mr. SPEAKER: As your question is lengthy, I am trying to make it shorter.

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA: I would like to submit whether there would be airstrip facility for tourists and what specific efforts are being made for them.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon Member is asking whether specific efforts are being made in this regard.

[English]

SHRI M. O. H. FAROOK: Sir, nothing is being done on the airstrip side.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Sir, as far as the airstrip is concerned, it does not pertain to the Ministry of Tourism, and I will request the hon. Member to ask the Minister of Civil Aviation about this in future. But certainly what the hon. Member desires to be totally fulfilled and whatever projects the Madhya Pradesh Government sends to us, we will sympathetically consider them because we understand the importance of this occasion and we would like to do all we can to help and make the occasion successful.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA :
There are so many places which could be developed as tourists spots. Whether the hon. Minister would provide special financial assistance for the development of those places ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Kindly give me your suggestions. We would try to cooperate to the fullest extent.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Apart from 'Kumbh Mela' there are many places in the country where the festivals of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs are held. Whether the hon. Minister would like to prepare a plan for the whole country keeping in view the festivals of different religions organised in the country.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
This question relates to Kumbh Mela only.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kumbh Mela is organised at four places only.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
You have talked of all the festivals. But, if you want to get the information about the four places only, I can certainly furnish it to you. I wanted to give you more information but if you want to make the question limited, I would give you information about four places also. I have a detailed list. If you desire, I would give it to you. There are 47 items in the list.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister of Tourism has just now assured that he would consider all the suggestions and proposals given by us sympathetically to make the 'Mela' a success. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I

would request that we would try to submit proposals but the all over responsibility rests with the Government. Kumbh Mela comes once after 12 years whether it is Allahabad or Nasik

[English]

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't quarrel with him *(Interruptions)*

[translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA :
That is why I am asking. Just now the hon. Minister has said that they are preparing. It has been said that 60-bedded Yatri Niwas is being constructed and some publicity material is being printed but that would not do. Because 50 lakh people are expected to reach there. The government of Madhya Pradesh is making arrangement for them at their level best. But what assistance is being provided by Central Government so far as facilities like medicines, drinking water, transport, railway, tourism, bus, etc are concerned. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that it would be a great achievement if an airstrip is constructed there on the occasion of Kumbh.

[English]

Mr. SPEAKER: This question is already replied. Now, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have already said that we usually accord our approval after considering the proposals received from the State Government and the proposals received by now involve Rupees 22

lakh of which we have sanctioned Rs. 10 lakh. Apart from this, we have already released grants of Rupees 23 lakh to C. P. W. D. for the 'Yatri Niwas' to be constructed at the cost of Rupees 45 lakh. The project is under construction. I want to say only that we would definitely consider the proposals received from the State Government but the primary responsibility rests with the State Government. As far as State Government is concerned, I hope, it would make all out efforts. I have some apprehension on the completion of 'Dharamshala' and convention Centre near Mahakali Temple by April, 1992 as the pace of the work is very slow and merely concrete pillars have been erected so far. Apart from this, the ghats are in dilapidated. The State Government has not even started work there. I am telling all these things just for your information

[English]

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA · My question pertains not only to the places of Kumbh, but also to different places of pilgrimage all over the country.

Now, the people who go to these places of pilgrimage are not affluent people, but most of them are ordinary, poor people many of whom come from the villages. Now it seems that our tourism industry is more geared to earning foreign exchange and accommodating upper class tourism than for developing facilities for ordinary poor pilgrims.

Now, the question that I would like to ask the Minister is whether the Indian Tourism Development Corporation and the Ministry would consider providing arrangements where, you know, the conditions are

absolutely appalling in most places of pilgrimage.

MR. SPEAKER · This is restricted to Kumbh Mela.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA · Is anything considered for providing food, transport and also clean accommodation for them? I want to know whether the profits made from the tourism industry by way of foreign exchange will be ploughed back to provide these facilities to ordinary people

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, this question really pertains to Kumbh Mela. But I would like to set the record straight. The Tourism Ministry is certainly assisting the State Governments. All the projects come to us from the State Governments and we are assisting them in low budget tourism. I have got all the information in my office. I can meet the hon. Member and give her all the information on this. This is not just five star tourism. In fact, I would like to place a major emphasis on low budget tourism. As far as pilgrimage areas are concerned, we have got a whole list of places numbering about 47 which we are going to take up for promotion in this year. I am very seriously considering a major scheme to improve all the wayside facilities to major pilgrimage centres like Badrinath and other places which we are actively considering and the Tourism Ministry could be likely to promote these areas. But, we will be requesting the State Government to send us more proposals and cooperate with us in trying to improve the facilities on the way to Badrinath and other pilgrimage centres.

SHRI RAM NAIK · Sir, at present in Maharashtra, Kumbhmela is going

on at Nasik. It has started only this month. The Maharashtra Government has said that the Central Government had not given them sufficient assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : This may need a separate notice.

SHRI RAM NAIK : No, Sir. He has got information about all the Kumbhmelas. That is what he has said. In case it is not available, he can say that. So, I just want to know the amount involved in the schemes proposed by the Maharashtra Government. I also want to know as to how much had been approved by the Central Government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the only proposal that we have received from the Maharashtra Government is the proposal to help in certain specific items, mainly for printing of materials, brochures, pamphlets etc. The amount involved is Rs. 5.74 lakhs of which we have agreed to the extent of 50 per cent and that amount has already been released in January of this year. Beyond that we have not received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Have you not received any proposal regarding drinking water facilities?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We have only received the proposal for printing of certain brochures and pamphlets.

(Translation)

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally three problems are experienced in a 'Mela', viz., drinking water, lavatory and housing. I want to know whether

there is any policy of the Government to provide facilities of drinking water, lavatory and housing at such places where big fairs are organised.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : It is the responsibility of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(English)

Development of Peripheral Areas around Coalfields

*571. **SHRI PIUS TIRKEY :** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the area of peripheral development around the coalfields,

(b) if so, the details of the development projects taken up by Central Coalfields Limited during each of the last three years, and the number of beneficiaries therefrom; and

(c) the details of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries in the Central Coalfields Limited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA) : (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) Peripheral development around coalfields is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. The coal companies pay sizeable amounts of cesses and royalties to the State Governments, which can be utilised for peripheral development.