

rated from one of the approved rating agencies and submit the rating certificate to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and other concerned. Cumulatively upto 31.1.1997, 17 private parties have imported about 190 TMT of LPG in bulk and 2 parties have imported about 0.19 TMT in packed.

Consequent to introduction of parallel marketing scheme of LPG, there is no monopoly in LPG marketing. It is expected that by end of monopoly and on account of competition, there will be improvement in customer service.

[English]

Barrier Free Environment

1874. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a project has been undertaken to provide a barrier free environment to the disabled and the elderly people, as sponsored by the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP);

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) the details of beneficiaries of the project and the steps taken to set up such projects on a country-wide basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Pilot Project namely, the 'New Delhi Pilot Project' has been started recently with the assistance of the UN-Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) for the promotion of barrier-free built environment for the disabled and elderly persons. This Project envisages the creation of facilities to provide barrier-free access to disabled and elderly persons in five selected buildings located in the Indraprastha Estate area in New Delhi and also in Nirman Bhavan and Shastri Bhavan, housing the Ministries of Urban Affairs & Employment and Welfare respectively. This Project, which is expected to have demonstration value, aims at developing a model with appropriate designs for the replication of the same in other cities in India.

(c) The beneficiaries of the Project will include various categories of disabled persons such as the orthopaedically handicapped, visually handicapped etc. and elderly persons. With a view to promoting similar projects on a country-wide basis, draft Model Building Bye-laws, incorporating provisions for barrier-free access to the disabled and elderly persons in buildings, have been formulated and circulated by the Government of India to the State Governments.

[Translation]

Specific Employment Schemes

1875. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 for specific Employment Schemes in Deoria and Balia district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether these funds are being spent on some other heads; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The details of amount of funds allocated during 1995-96 and 1996-97 for Employment schemes like Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training for Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) in Balia and Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh are as follow :

	1995-96		1996-97	
	Balia	Deoria	Balia	Deoria
JRY	883.09	340.89	842.25	353.79
EAS*	340.00	300.00	520.00	150.00
IRDP	345.99	329.94	345.99	329.94
TRYSEM	29.32	29.88	29.32	29.88

* The figures show the funds released.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

LPG Agencies

1876. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any policy of Government to encourage Cooperative Societies;

(b) If so, the places where LPG distributorship has been given to Cooperative Societies;

(c) whether the number of LPG distributorship to Cooperative Societies is much less than the number of individual LPG Agencies; and

(d) The steps Government propose to take to encourage the Cooperative Societies in this field ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) As per existing policy cooperative societies are eligible

to apply under open category for setting up LPG distributorships. Within this open category, other things being equal, consumer cooperative societies are given preference over other applicants.

(b) Based on the above policy, Oil Marketing Companies have awarded 100 LPG distributorship to cooperative societies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In addition to the above, Oil Companies can allot direct distributorships to cooperative societies of the project, which cater to the LPG requirement of the employees of the project only in their respective colonies.

National Social Assistance Programme

1877. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the date since when the National Social Assistance Programme is being implemented in Orissa;

(b) the main objectives of the programme;

(c) the criteria followed for providing assistance under the programme;

(d) the category-wise details of persons benefited there from so far in the State of Orissa particularly in Kalahandi and Nuapada districts separately; and

(e) the amount of financial assistance provided to the State so far particularly for these two districts under the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO VARMA) : (a) The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) is being implemented in Orissa since 15.8.1995.

(b) The main objectives of the programme are as under:-

(i) to provide social assistance benefits to poor households in case of old age, death of the breadwinner and maternity.

(ii) To ensure minimum national standards of Central assistance in addition to the benefits that States are currently providing or might provide in future.

(iii) To provide opportunities for linking the social assistance package to schemes for poverty alleviation and the provision of basic needs.

(c) The NSAP has three components; these are :-

(i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS);

(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and

(iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS)

The specific criteria for each component are as follows:

(i) NOAPS : Central Assistance under the National Old Age Pension is available subject to the following criteria.

(a) The age of the applicant (male/female) shall be 65 age of above.

(b) The applicant must be a destitute in the sense of having little or no regular means of subsistence from his/her own sources of income or through financial support from family members or other sources. If the criteria adopted by State/UT Government to determine destitution prior to the introduction of NOAPS are more liberal than those prescribed by the Central Government, the State/UT Government are free to adopt them.

(c) The amount of Old Age Pension shall be Rs.75/- per month.

(d) The total number old age pensions should not exceed the numerical ceiling prescribed for State/UTs.

(ii) NFBS – Central Assistance under the National Family Benefit Scheme is available to households below the povertyline in the event of the death of the primary breadwinner in the bereaved family subject to the satisfaction of the following criteria.

(a) The Primary breadwinner is the member of the household-male or female-whose earnings contribute the largest proportion to the total household income.

(b) The death of such a primary breadwinner should have occurred whilst he or she was in the age group 18 to 64 years i.e. more than 18 years of age and less than 65 years of age.

(c) The bereaved household is below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India.

(d) Rs. 5000/- per person in the case of death due to natural causes and Rs. 10,000 per person in the case of death due to accidental causes will be the ceilings for the purpose of claiming Central assistance

(e) The number of such cases should be within the numerical ceiling prescribed.