

- III. Special jury award carrying silver peacock and a cash prize of Rs. 2.50 lakhs shared by two films, "The Blue Veiled" by Iranian director Rakshan Bani Etemad and "The Freedom Gang" by Leyla Assaf Tengroth from Lebanon.

Import of Gas from Oman/Iran

410. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

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

- (a) whether discussions with Oman/Iran regarding import of natural gas have been concluded;
- (b) if so, the decision arrived at; and
- (c) if not, the time by which these are expected to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible at present to indicate the time by which these discussion would be concluded.

Jails in the Country

411. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Human Right Commission visited some of the jails in the country and found them filthy, dirty and unfit for loading human beings therein; and
- (b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SYED SIBTEY RAZI): (a) and (b). The National Human Rights Commission did visit a number of jails in the country. The Commission found that the situation in the prisons visited was varied and complex. While it found some jails over crowded, there were some underutilized. Similarly, while the Commission saw a few jails which were notably clean and where the diet was reasonable, it came across many others, which were squalid. In each instance, the Commission gave its

views and recommendations in regard to the institutions visited directly to the State Governments.

'Prisons' being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments to deal with any matter relating to the administration of prison according to their rules, regulations, procedure and provisions of jails manuals. However, the Central Government has felt continued cause for concern over the less than satisfactory conditions of prisons in the country. To supplement the efforts of State Governments to improve living conditions of prisons, health hygiene and security arrangements etc., Government of India had introduced a scheme of Modernisation of Prison Administration during 1987, and released an amount of Rs. 45 crores during the period 1987-92. The scheme has further been extended for the Eighth Plan period with an allocation of Rs. 100 crores for the period.

LPG Connections

412. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons on the waiting list for L.P.G. connections since 1989 in Trivandrum; and
- (b) the time by which the L.P.G. connections are likely to be provided to all the above applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) The number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections since 1989 in Trivandrum is 27626 as on 1.1.1996.

(b) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Trivandrum, depending upon the availability of LPG, New customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability.

[Translation]

Custodial Deaths

413. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO GUNDEWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of custodial deaths in Delhi during the current year;
- (b) the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action being taken against the persons responsible for this?