

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 7 November, 1988 wherein it has been stated that as many as 42 persons, including 10 children and 15 women, fainted in the Railway Colony, Madurai following a leak from a chlorine gas cylinder used for purifying well water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps contemplated to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c). The Government has seen the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 7.11.88.

According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, 32 persons comprising of 24 males, 4 females and 4 children were admitted in Railway Hospital Madurai, with complaints of irritation of throat, cough and burning of eyes due to leakage of chlorine gas from the cylinder in the drinking water well in Railway Colony, Madurai on 5.11.1988.

There was no case of fainting or unconsciousness as reported in news-paper. All the affected persons were given First Aid on 5th November, 1988 in Railway Hospital and kept under observation till the morning of 6th November, 1988 when all were discharged.

According to the enquiry conducted by State Government, the leakage was due to loose state of the nut in the cylinder which was tightened immediately. No act of negligence on the part of any person has been reported. However, the State Government has been advised to take all possible precautionary measures to avoid such recurrence in future.

Financial Support to HUDCO

3728. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to provide additional financial support to HUDCO for meeting the additional requirements of States in respect of rebuildings and reconstruction of the houses damaged due to the unprecedented earthquake and floods; and

(b) if so, the additional financial support proposed to be given to HUDCO during the current and the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Under the HUDCO financing norms loan assistance is given through state agencies to people affected by floods and other natural calamity for rebuilding and repairs of their homes. It has been decided that during this year banking sector would channel additional funds through HUDCO for meeting the substantially increased requirement of loans for reconstruction of houses in areas affected by natural calamities in a number of states.

(b) Besides additional banking sector funds channelled through HUDCO, it has been proposed to assist HUDCO to raise additional resources in a variety of ways.

Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries

3729. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance given to different States for the development of National Parks and Sanctuaries during the Seventh Five Year Plan, Year-wise;