

(b) what is the percentage of local people employed in each of these organisations; and

(c) what step Government propose to ensure employment to local people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Complaints regarding underloading of wagons of coal by Railways

8689. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH
MALIK:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding underloading of wagons of coal by the Railways; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHEO NARAIN): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Shortage of Serum Vaccine and other Life Saving Drugs

8690. SHRI FAQUIR ALI ANSARI:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND BERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item which appeared in the *Economic Times* dated the 13th March, 1978 to the effect that there is acute shortage of serum vaccine and other life saving drugs not only in the local market but all over the State of Assam;

(b) whether Government is aware that there is shortage of these drugs not only in the state of Assam but throughout the country; and

(c) the particular efforts made to ensure adequate supply of vaccine and life saving drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter was immediately taken up with the Govt. of Assam to confirm the facts and with the major concerned manufacturers to ascertain their production and supplies made to Assam. The State Government have confirmed about the shortage of serum and vaccine only. Other drugs are reported to be available. While the Serum Institute of India, Pune have reported that no order from their stockists in Assam State was pending delivery with them, M/s. Biological Evans, Hyderabad, are prepared to rush the supplies if the requirement of a particular area is communicated to them. The Govt. of Assam have been informed accordingly.

(b) and (c). No general shortage throughout the country has come to notice. Whenever shortages of particular medicines are brought to the notice of this Department, the matter is taken up with the concerned manufacturers for rushing supplies of their products to the affected areas. Their problems, if any, are also looked into.

Government have just received the report of the Investigation Committee which was instituted to look into the affairs of the Bengal Immunity Company, the major producer of serum and vaccines whose malfunctioning has also affected the availability. The recommendations contained in the report are under active consideration of Government.

Government have also decided to activate the institutes producing sera, vaccines, etc., on the basis of the Hathi Committee recommendations and the concerned State Governments have already been asked to initiate such action.

Supply of Cooking Gas to Consumers

8691. SHRI SHAMBHU NATH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the arrangement for the supply of cooking gas to the consumers;

(b) whether there has been any reduction of supply of this commodity to the various States or Districts; and

(c) what is the quota for Agra for the supply of this commodity and what has been the shortfall during the past three years in the supply of gas cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (cooking gas), after its production in the refineries, is bottled in the bottling plant from where it is supplied to the distributors in a defined area. The distributors supply LPG to the consumers registered with them according to requirement. New LPG connections are released by the distributors, subject to availability of the product, to those registered with them on 'first come, first served' basis.

(b) The overall availability and sale of LPG in 1977-78 was 6 per cent more than in the previous year. However, there have been occasions when the oil companies have not been able to meet the full demand in a particular State due to various reasons such as un-anticipated shutdown of refineries, breakdown of transport, etc.

(c) There is no quota of LPG fixed for a particular town or district. Efforts are made to meet the full refill requirements of customers once they are enrolled for LPG supply. The supply position of LPG at Agra has been affected to some extent due to limited availability of product ex-Koyali and the demand surpassing the availability during winter months. Efforts are being made to meet the demand by moving the product from alternate sources. The sale of LPG in Agra during the last three years was as under:

<u>1975-76</u>	<u>1976-77</u>	<u>1977-78</u>
2250 MTS	2470 MTS	2640 MTS:
		(Appro

Import of Petroleum products

8692. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to import high speed diesel and other petroleum products on priority basis;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) item-wise value of total import of these products made so far during the current year and the preceding year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). Petroleum products in respect of which the country is deficit are regularly imported. These products are mainly kerosene, high speed diesel, naphtha, furnace oil and certain speciality products. An annual estimate of the total requirements is formulated and imports of these products are organised on the basis of a regular and periodic review of supply and demand