

(c) It is proposed to encourage award of catering/vending contracts to ladies. However, there is no proposal to fix a percentage or quota for them as they are now eligible to apply for all the catering and vending contracts falling vacant. In addition, as per extant policy, Mahilla Samitis are given preference along with Cooperative Societies in the award of these contracts if they apply for the same.

Supreme Court's Ruling on Publication of Election Posters

5346. SHRI BIREN DUTTA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has ruled that publication of election posters carrying photographs of the Prime Minister, some of Central Ministers and three Service Chiefs is an act of impropriety; and

(b) if so, what are the preventive steps Government propose to check this impropriety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (DR SAROJINI MAHISHI): (a) The Supreme Court has observed that the publication of posters bearing the photographs of the Prime Minister, Defence Minister Foreign Minister and three Service Chiefs was an act of impropriety but not a corrupt practice falling within the mischief of section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

(b) No legal preventive step is considered necessary.

Allocation of Kerosene to Kerala State

5347. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) what was the allocation of kerosene to the State of Kerala in Octo-

ber, November, and December, 1974 and January, February 1975, respectively;

(b) whether this quota was lifted fully; and

(c) what percentage of this is given to the cities and what percentage to the rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI C. P. MAJHI):

(a) Kerosene allocation to Kerala State during the period from October 1974 to February 1975, was under:—

	Metric Tonnes
OCTOBER, 1974	7,750
NOVEMBER, 1974	8,883
DECEMBER, 1974	8,883
JANUARY, 1975	8,850
FEBRUARY, 1975	8,816

(b) No, Sir, Unliftment of the quota was marginally less than the allocation during the above period.

(c) Distribution of kerosene oil within the State is done by the State Governments. No such figures are therefore available in the Ministry. However on the basis of a general assessment of the oil companies, about 30 per cent of the product is distributed in the urban areas and about 70 per cent in the rural areas.

Dismissal of Railwaymen of Sholapur Division

5348. SHRI S. R. DAMANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railwaymen of Sholapur Division were dismissed from Service and have not been taken back although they had not participated in the May, 1974 strike;

(b) the names of such employees and whether they were victimised for participation in the earlier agitation