

(b) and (c). The present demand of LPG is far in excess of its production from refineries. Several steps are however being taken to increase the production and marketing arrangements for LPG. These include the following:—

- (i) Maximising the yield of LPG from the refineries.
- (ii) Import of spiked crude to meet unavoidable variations in LPG production and demand.
- (iii) Import of steel for fabrication of gas cylinders. At present, there is no shortage of cylinders to meet the existing demand or to provide for the expansion plans of the oil companies.
- (iv) Augmenting the fleet of tank trucks and tank wagons for bulk movements of LPG.
- (v) Setting up of a new bottling plant at Kanpur and increasing the capacity of the existing bottling plant at Shakurbasti, Delhi.
- (vi) Providing additional loading and unloading facilities for tank wagons at Koyali and Shakurbasti.
- (vii) Removal of transportation and other operational bottle-necks.

As a result of these measures, and particularly with additional LPG availability from Haldia refinery and improved transportation arrangements of bulk LPG from Koyali and other refineries, it is expected that the LPG supplies will increase further in 1976. In 1975, LPG supplies increased by about 24.8 per cent over 1974.

### Production and Sale of Janta Drugs

1198. SHRI ISHAQUE SAMBHALI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Indian Hospitals Association has asked for early production of "Janta Drugs" and its distribution through "Janta" channels for the benefit of the poor as recommended by the Hathi Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI). (a) and (b). Government have seen the Reports published in various newspapers and also the speeches made by various persons during the 15th Annual Convention of the Indian Hospital Association held on the 29th November, 1975, at Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi. The convention have given the concept of "Janta Drugs" to the 117 drugs identified by the Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry for mass production and distribution through "Janta Channels".

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry submitted its report on various facets of the drug industry to the Government on 6th April, 1975. The important recommendations of the Hathi Committee relating to production programme concern:

- (i) Increasing the production of bulk drugs required for producing 117 essential formulations identified by the Committee for mass consumption and
- (ii) Assigning of relevant line of production to the Public Sector, the Indian Sector and the multinational sector.

The important recommendations of the Hathi Committee on distribution of drugs, drug formulation are as follows:

- (i) Distribution systems in the Public Sector should make use of unconventional agencies such as Primary Health Centres, Panchayats, Dispensaries, Post Offices, Petrol and Kerosene Sales Depots etc for the distribution of house-hold remedies. There is need to evolve a wide distribution system suited to our own socio-economic, ecological conditions.
- (ii) Besides making the country self-sufficient in regard to drugs, medical service of a rudimentary nature in the remote village should be introduced, where common house-hold remedies for cough, cold, fever, antacid preparations etc, should be made available in pillerproof packing sufficient to meet 3-4 days treatment.
- (iii) To make these drugs available in rural areas, the distribution system must be rationalised and decentralised, in regard to house-hold remedies and commonly used medicines which do not require the prescription of doctors. Assistance should also be sought from the postal department, Indian Oil Company Depots, Kerosene depots, Cooperative Societies should be encouraged for the distribution of drugs in rural areas.

Government are considering the question of conversion of some of the existing petroleum retail outlets into multipurpose distribution centres for the supply of essential commodities in areas which are backward and at places which are reasonably within poor environment. The items proposed to be stocked and sold by such multi purpose distribution centres include Controlled Cloth, Bicycle tyres, scooter tyres, soap, drugs etc. It is proposed to set up about 40 such distribution Centres out

of which 2, one at Bahalgarh in Sonapat District in Haryana and the other at Jagdishpur in Jaunpur District in Uttar Pradesh have already come into existence and arrangements have already been made to handle various consumers requirements.

A scheme by the Ministry of Health and Family Planning aimed at making available at reasonable prices essential house-hold remedies to the rural population particularly to the people residing in remote areas has been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan. It is proposed to initiate the scheme in 1976-77 subject to the availability of funds.

Government is giving careful consideration to the recommendations made by the Hath Committee and will take an integrated view on the various recommendations shortly.

#### Casual, Temporary and Contract Labourers in Railway Caterings

1199 DR RANEN SEN  
SHRI C K CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether there are still many casual, temporary and contract labourers in the catering service of the Railways;

(b) if so, the number of each category, zone-wise,

(c) whether any representations have been made to make them permanent and to improve their conditions of work, and

(d) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BUTA SINGH) (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha