

maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG Bottling plants during extended hours to clear the backlog and arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas. There is no LPG backlog in the State of Gujarat as reported by PSU oil companies.

#### **Release of 50% Central Share for SC/ST**

1387. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Kerala for the release of 50% Central Share for the Kerala Institute for Research Training and Development studies of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government has not furnished information about the provision of State's share in their budget and also the information regarding utilisation of funds released to them as Central share during the financial year 1997-98 has not been furnished. On receipt of this information, the proposal will be processed for releasing Central share to the State Government.

#### **Goitre Cases**

1388. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate of goitre patients and the diseases arising due to lack of iodine supplied before and after the ban on non-iodised salt; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to eradicate this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Surveys of impact-evaluation of iodised salt on the prevalence of goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders conducted from time to time in different parts of the country have revealed significant reduction in the disorders caused due to nutritional Iodine Deficiency.

(b) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme, is being implemented in the country. The programme strategy includes Iodine Deficiency Disorders surveys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of Iodine content of salt as well as urinary Iodine Excretion and health education to increase public awareness.

#### **Funds for Public Sector Undertakings**

1389. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5887 on 28th July 1998 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Officers in Public Sector Undertakings are allowed to raise funds for activities other than for the welfare of the undertakings;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and;

(e) if not, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the guilty Officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Part information, received from ONGC, is being examined in the Ministry. The remaining information is being obtained.

#### **AIDS Control Programme**

1390. SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the virus of AIDS is spreading to the general population of the country;

(b) if so, whether the National AIDS Committee has called for strengthening and intensifying the prevention and control of AIDS particularly in the rural areas of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to prevent the spreading of virus of AIDS-in the country in general population?