

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government in this regard during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (c) A comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure comprising 1,36,815 Sub-Centres, 22,962 Primary Health Centres and 2,708 Community Health Centres has been established throughout the country to provide preventive, promotive and curative health care in rural areas.

Public health is a State responsibility under the Constitution but to enable them to fill critical gaps external assistance has been mobilised for implementing the National Programmes for AIDS, Leprosy, TB, Malaria, Blindness and the Reproductive Child Health Programme.

Besides, for upgrading the rural hospitals in 6 States. World Bank assistance has been availed of which would further improve delivery of health services.

#### Criteria for Fixing Price of Essential Commodities

2483. SHRI H. P. SINGH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for rapid increase in the prices of consumer goods;

(b) the agency for price determination of consumer goods and the criteria adopted; and

(c) the reasons for not formulating any specific scheme to check the increase in the prices of each commodity after every three months and six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The main reasons for increase in the prices of consumer goods are the increase in the cost of production, gap in their supply and demand, lower production during the year 1997-98 and marketing costs. The prices of consumer goods are determined by the market forces and there is no specific agency to determine the prices of these commodities.

(c) Due to practical and other operational difficulties, it is not possible to prepare any specific scheme to check the increase in the prices of each commodity after every three months and six months.

[English]

#### Gas Agencies in Jammu and Kashmir

2484. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some persons have been operating LPG agencies and petrol pumps by proxy instead of original licence holders in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to make cooking gas available to the people of districts engulfed with militancy in Jammu region, Kashmir Valley and Ladakh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No retail outlet dealership is reportedly being operated by proxy instead of original licence holders in Jammu and Kashmir. However, one LPG distributorship of BPC allotted in favour of Shri Sunil Razdan, M/s Chinar Gas service at Srinagar, is presently being operated by Shri Aslam Dhar. The distributorship is being operated in the name of M/s Chinar Gas Service. Due to law and order problem in Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Razdan was forced to flee and take shelter in the house of Mr. Aslam Dhar, landlord of the showroom of the distributorship. Fearing further repiasal, Mr. Razdan handed over the keys of the distributorship to Mr. Dhar and fled to Delhi on 5.6.90.

Though M/s Bharat Petroleum Corp. has requested Mr. Razdan to come back to the valley to take over his distributorship, he has expressed his inability to do so in view of the disturbed conditions in the State. However, in view of the circumstances prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir and its capital Srinagar, it would be extremely difficult to discontinue the operation of the distributorship by Shri Aslam Dhar.

(c) In addition to the locations pending from the previous Marketing Plans, two more LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for Jammu & Kashmir. As per existing policy, LPG connections are being released across the counter at the locations situated at the altitude of above 2000 ft. in the State.

#### Demolition in Chandigarh

2485. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the Union territory of Chandigarh carried out any demolition in any village during October, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether notices were served on all the affected persons;