

As per the order of the court, the MPs can issue LPG connections subject to the following guidelines:

1. The beneficiary should be a resident of the Constituency of the MP.
2. The person should be in urgent need of an LPG connection.
3. His name should be registered in the Waiting List with an LPG Distributor.
4. LPG supplied should be used only for domestic purpose.

Maintenance of Gole Market Park

2532. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the parks located between the Government quarters in Gole Market area in New Delhi are not properly maintained in spite of lodging complaints by the habitants regularly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such complaints received by New Delhi Municipal Council so far; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) The parks in question are maintained by the Central Public Works Department, which has reported that, within the existing financial constraints, the lawns between the Government quarters in the area are being maintained properly.

(c) and (d) The Central Public Works Department had received three requests from the local Residents Welfare Association on which the following action has been taken:

- (i) The financial sanction for an amount of Rs. 73800/- for re-development of one of the parks between Block No. 18 and 42 and provision of a separate water tank in Sector-2, Gole Market, has been obtained;
- (ii) Another park between Block No. 18 and 42 has since been re-developed; and
- (iii) It is envisaged to develop one Model Park in Gole Market area subject to the approval of the competent Authority.

[English]

Artificial Limbs For Disabled

2533. SHRI K. PARY MOHAN : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in new technology and making lighter and user friendly artificial appliances for the disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to introduce liberal and soft loan schemes to encourage new manufacturers of artificial limbs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(i) Fabrication of composite plastic based Floor Reaction Orthosis(FRO): Such appliance have been developed by Composite Product Development Centre, Hyderabad, and are presently under field trials. The mass manufacturing of such appliances is scheduled to be taken up in Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of this Ministry, after successful completion of field trials.

(ii) ALIMCO has also taken up a Project of Development and manufacture of light weight polypropylene based Lower Limb Prosthesis based on ICRC (International Committee of Red Cross) technology.

(iii) ALIMCO also manufactures and supplies Braille Slate for the visually handicapped which is manufactured out of light weight ABS material (plastic).

(c) and (d) Yes. Loan assistance upto a maximum amount of Rs. 25 lakhs is provided for setting up small scale industries for manufacturing aids and appliances under R & D programmes of Government/Academic Institutions of Repute for Disabled within the country which employ the disabled persons. This assistance would be provided by the National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation.

[Translation]

Review of Working of Intelligence Agencies

2534. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of intelligence agencies under Union Government and State Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the major incidents and mishaps are faced by the country due to the failure of these intelligence agencies; and

(d) if so, the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government, to make intelligence agencies more dedicated to their duties?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : (a) The Central Government constantly reviews the working of its Intelligence Agencies of the State Governments function under the control of respective State Governments.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Intelligence Agencies of Central Government are dedicated their duties and are fully geared to gather information about any undesirable activities which may lead to any mishap.

Oil Refinery Project

2535. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil refinery projects whose work have been delayed and the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) 15 projects pertaining to oil refineries and their units have been delayed. The reasons for the delay include late deliveries of plant and equipment, the performance of contractors, delay in finalising licences and engineering packages, non-receipt of statutory clearances, transportation problems associated with heavy equipment, etc.

(b) Regular Project meetings are held both by the companies and by the Government to monitor the progress and to expedite action.

[English]

Thyroid Cases

2536. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an alarming rise in the Thyroid problems among urbanites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to combat the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) There is no scientific data published to demonstrate alarming rise in the incidents of thyroid problem among urbanites. However, Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) are widely prevalent in the country. Surveys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and other institutions clearly indicated that no State/UT is free from the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Out of 275 districts surveyed so far in 25 States and 4 UTs, 235 districts are endemic where the prevalence is more than 10%.

(c) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in the country. The programme strategy includes IDD surveys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion and Health Education to increase the public awareness.

Refilling Plant in U.P.

2537. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation of Bharat Petroleum Co. had decided to set up the refilling plant of L.P.G. near Pihani in U.P.;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) No, Sir. The demand of U.P. is being met by the existing capacity of Industry LPG bottling plants which is 412 TMTA. As per OCC approval, additional capacity to the tune of 664 TMTA will be added by Industry as part of facilities during VIII Plan and IX Plan in U.P. through bottling plants at different identified locations and this will be sufficient to meet the projected requirement of LPG in U.P. estimated at 1025.315 TMTA by the end of IX Plan.

The LPG bottling plants are set up based on techno-economic study by Industry/OCC.

(b) and (c) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

National Commission for Minorities

2538. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state: