

Nutrient	Year 1997-98		Year 1998-99	
	Target	Actual Production	Target	Actual Production (estimated)
Nitrogen	96.11	100.85	106.82	104.26
Phosphate	28.60	29.76	30.26	29.97

[English]

Implementation of New Central Guidelines

2577. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vidarbha LPG Distributors Association has submitted a memorandum on implementation of New Central Guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken for redressal of genuine grievances of gas distributors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) The Vidarbha LPG Distributors Association filed a writ petition before the High Court Judicature at Mumbai (Nagpur Branch) seeking the quashing and setting aside of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines being implemented by public sector oil companies with effect from 12th May, 1998. An ex-parte order dated 15.10.1998 was passed by the Court granting interim stay. The matter is presently sub-judice. However, the public sector oil companies have put on hold the implementation of the revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines, 1998 and are also reviewing the said guidelines for redressal of genuine grievances of LPG distributors.

Welfare of the Mentally Retarded Persons

2578. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK :

SHRI VAIKO :

SHRI P. SANKARAN :

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mentally retarded persons in the country; States/UT wise;

(b) the number of mentally retarded persons rehabilitated during the last three years;

(c) the details of welfare schemes implemented and the funds allocated for the upliftment of mentally retarded persons; and

(d) the number of welfare centres being run by the Government in the country, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (d) The required information is being collected.

Capitation Fees Charged From Medical Students

2579. 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 medical education in the country have become commercialised and the medical colleges throughout the country are charging exorbitant capitation fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the genuine and hardworking students are denied admissions in medical colleges due to lack of funds with them; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring transparency in the functioning of various medical colleges throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) With a view to prevent the commercialisation of medical colleges and also to prevent Private medical colleges from charging capitation fee, the Supreme Court of India in the case of Unnikrishnan J.P. versus State, evolved a scheme for regulating admission in private medical colleges and also fixed a specific fee structure to be charged by these medical colleges. As per the scheme, in all private medical colleges 50% of the total seats will be merit seats, 35% are payment seats and the remaining 15% are seats earmarked for NRI. The admissions to the first two categories i.e. merit and payment seats is to be done by a competent authority in the respective States, on the basis of merit to be determined either on the basis of a competitive entrance test or on the basis of the merit determined in the qualifying examination. Since merit is the sole criteria for obtaining admissions, hard-working students have been benefited by this scheme evolved by the Supreme Court. As regards the fee structure, this has been fixed by the Supreme Court from 1993-94 to 1996-97. Subsequently, the Central Government has fixed the upper ceiling of fee for merit and payment seats in private medical colleges from 1997-98.

Hydro Carbon Deposits

2580. SHRI T. R. BAALU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: