

LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problem, IR Problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources etc., Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sunday and Holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

Presently there is no LPG backlog in the State of Rajasthan as reported by Oil Companies.

Beedi Industry

3663. SHRI GIRAJALA VENKAT SWAMY NAIDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers employed in the beedi sector;

(b) the details of steps taken by the Government for the welfare of beedi workers to protect their interest;

(c) whether monitoring has been done on the impact of entry of foreign companies in beedi sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that detrimental policies are not implemented in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The number of beedi workers in the country is estimated to be 44 lakhs.

(b) The Government have taken a number of steps for the welfare of beedi workers which include providing benefits in the field of health care, social security, recreation, education, and housing. A list of such schemes is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The existing guidelines for investment by foreign companies do not stipulate any ceiling on the extent of foreign equity participation inter-alia in sectors pertaining to consumer non-durables. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is considered by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) subject to the provision relating to compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

Statement

List of Welfare Schemes for Beedi Workers

A. HEALTH:

1. Static-cum-Mobile/Static Allopathic and Static Ayurvedic Dispensaries.
2. Scheme for Reservation of Beds in T.B. Hospitals.
3. Scheme for Domiciliary Treatment of beedi workers suffering from T.B.
4. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Cancer.
5. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers suffering from Mental Disease.
6. Scheme for Treatment of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Workers) suffering from Leprosy.
7. Grant of Financial Assistance to Beedi Workers for purchase of Spectacles.
8. Maternity Benefit Scheme for Female Beedi Workers.
9. Scheme for payment of Monetary Compensation for Sterilisation to Beedi Workers.
10. Re-imbusement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Heart Diseases.
11. Re-imbusement of expenditure as financial assistance to Beedi Workers in respect of Kidney Transplantation.

B. SOCIAL SECURITY:

1. Group Insurance Scheme.

C. HOUSING:

1. Build Your Own House Scheme.
2. Housing Scheme for Economically Weaker Section of Beedi Workers.
3. Grant of subsidy to Co-operative Societies of Beedi Industry for construction of worksheds and godowns.

4. Group Housing Scheme.

D. EDUCATION:

1. Award of Scholarship to the Children of Beedi Workers (including Gharkhata Beedi Workers).
2. Composite Scheme for Financial Assistance to the School going children of Beedi Workers for supply of one set of dress, slates, note books and text books.
3. Payment of incentives on passing final University/Board examinations from High School onwards.
4. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance of Re. 1/- to female children of Beedi Workers, on the basis of attendance in schools.

E. RECREATION:

1. Establishment of Audio-Visual Sets/Cinema Vans/Exhibition of Films.
2. Organising sports, games social and cultural activities for Beedi Workers.
3. Holiday Home Scheme for Beedi Workers.
4. Supply of T.V. Sets to the Beedi Workers Industrial Co-operative Societies.
5. Establishment of Community Hall in Beedi Workers Housing Colony with colour T.V. Set.

[*Translation*]

**Arresting persons having contacts
with Foreign Terrorists**

3664. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested in metropolitan cities having contracts with foreign terrorists during last six months;

(b) whether the terrorists have links with politicians and getting protection from them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any restriction is likely to be imposed on entering of such suspicious persons in politics; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to make their activities futile and to strengthen the security of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (e) The information is being obtained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas

3665. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to increase the existing capacity of pipeline for increasing the capacity of L.N.G. based industries and for setting up of new industries in Rajasthan particularly in industrial town Kota;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken for making distribution of L.N.G. more extensive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. As on date there are no LNG based industries in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Import of LNG is on the Open General Licence (OGL) and therefore, LNG can be freely imported, regassified and distributed by any party whether in the Public Sector or Private Sector. Apart from the several private initiatives to import and distribute LNG, Government have also approved formation of Petronet LNG Ltd., a Joint Venture Company with 50% equity participation from ONGCL, IOCL, GAIL and BPCL and the balance to be offered to financial institutions, private parties etc.

[*English*]

Anti-T.B. Drugs

3666. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four drugs combination of Anti-T.B. drugs is proposed to be included in WHO list of essential drugs;

(b) if so, whether the Drug Technical Advisory Committee has recommended to ban such combination;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and