

(a) whether the Government are aware that a medicine has been developed to regain resistance power of the persons suffering from AIDS, TB and Cancer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely time by which its availability is possible in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Food Programme

3838. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement with World Food Programme for improvement of food security through forestry activities in tribal areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Government had declined the offer made by World Food Programme for assistance; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture have signed an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP), for implementing a project titled—"Improvement of Food Security through Forestry Activities in Tribal Areas of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan".

The main objectives of the project are:—

- (i) To provide sustainable improvement in the target group's food security and income; and
- (ii) Empowerment of communities particularly women and households through participatory integrated rural development.

Under the Project, WFP will provide wheat (91355 MT), Rice (42600 MT), pulses (12560 MT) and Vegetable

Oils (3465 MT) with an estimated Food cost of US\$ 45.560 million over a period of five years for distribution at concessional prices to the daily wage labourers of the State Forest Department belonging to the most disadvantaged & poorest population.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Enquiry against IOC's Officers

3839. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BAIJNATH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether an inquiry is being conducted against some officers in the Vigilance department of Indian Oil Corporation;

(b) if so, the number thereof;

(c) the number of cases out of them disposed of; and

(d) the time by which the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 15.12.98, 81 inquiries are being conducted against some officers of IOC by the Vigilance Deptt. of IOC.

(c) Nil.

(d) The cases are under various stages of enquiry. It is not possible to indicate firm time schedule for completing these enquiries.

LPG Bottling Plants

3840. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up new LPG Bottling Plants to meet the demand of LPG in the country particularly in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their locations, names of oil companies with their bottling capacity and the cost likely to be involved in each plant, State-wise.

(c) the number of such plants at present in the country alongwith their locations and bottling capacity of each plant;

(d) the details of safety measures implemented for the welfare of workers in these plants; and

(e) the time by which Bottling plant envisaged at Haldigara in Orissa is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of new bottling plants planned in the State of Bihar are as under:

Location	Oil Co.	Capacity (TMTPA)
Jamshedpur	IOC	88
Barauni	IOC	15
Begusarai	BPC	22
Purnea	HPC	10
Ranchi	BPC	22
Patna	HPC	22
Jamshedpur	HPC	10
Bokaro	IOC	22
Patna	IOC	44
Muzaffarpur	IOC	22
Darbhanga	IOC	22
Bhagalpur	IOC	22

The cost of the bottling plants, yet to be firmed up, will depend on a number of factors like cost of land, type of land, quality of soil etc. The exact cost for such plants is evaluated after land approval and soil investigation etc.

(c) As on 1.10.98, there were 100 LPG bottling plants of PSU Oil Companies operating in the country with a total capacity of 3795 TMTPA.

(d) LPG Bottling Plants are constructed as per the existing National standards/statutory codes like OISD, Static and Mobile Pressure Vessels Rules, Gas Cylinder rules, Factory Act etc. to comply with the requirements of Safety and Welfare of the workers.

(e) In view of deregulated scenario, economic viability of Haldigara LPG bottling plant is under study. It takes about 24 months for the construction of a LPG bottling plant after approval of its project report.

[English]

Subsidy on Onion

3841. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided 50 per cent subsidy to the National Capital Territory of Delhi for distribution of onion at subsidised rate through Ration Cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra has also distributed the onion at subsidised rate in Mumbai and other States at its own cost;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have decided to imburse the subsidy to Maharashtra which was incurred on the distribution of onion;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether some requests have been received for providing subsidy on onion from other States;