

*[English]***National Commission for Rural Labour**

3860. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to give permanent status to the National Commission for Rural Labour;

(b) if so, the time by which final decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the extent to which the rural labourers are likely to be benefited from the said Commission?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The National Commission on Rural Labour had been set up in 1987 and gave its report on the conclusion of the task assigned to it. Its term expired in July, 1991. Therefore, the question of according permanent status to it does not arise.

Out of Court Settlement in Urea Supply

3861. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:
SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI KAMALNATH:
SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have again rejected the latest offer of the Turkish firm Karsan for an out of court settlement in the urea supply deal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the present position of investigation in urea scam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (c) The counsel for M/s Karsan Ltd. made an offer on 19.8.98 for out of court settlement. The offer was rejected as criminal case had been launched against the Executives of M/s Karasan Ltd. and others on charges of misappropriation and cheating and also on the ground

that arbitration proceedings had been filed separately before the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) for recovery of the amount alongwith damages.

(d) On the basis of the investigations carried out so far, the CBI filed a chargesheet on 26.12.97 in the Court of Special Judge, Delhi against 9 accused persons including the former Chairman & Managing Director of National Fertilizers Ltd. The Court of Special Judge, Delhi has framed charges on 1.12.98 against 8 accused persons, including the two executives of M/s Karsan Limited.

*[Translation]***LPG Connections in Delhi**

3862. SHRI H.P. SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas connections of Indian Oil/ Bharat Gas/Hindustan Petroleum issued to registered consumers in Delhi during 1998;

(b) the year for which waiting list is being processed at present;

(c) whether the restriction to issue new connections imposed on May 15th, 1998 has been lifted; and

(d) if not, the time for which restriction is likely to be lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) IOC, BPC and HPC have released 69028 new LPG connections to the registered consumers in Delhi during 1998 (January to October).

(b) The waiting list for new LPG connections registered prior to 1.1.91 all over the country including Delhi to all desirous registrants has been cleared by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies during 1997-98 as per the directive of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as part of the enrolment plan for 1997-98. Connections are being released now against the wait lists of later years, as per the policy of release of connections through distributors on the basis of slack available with distributors and seniority of registration etc.

(c) and (d) There was delay in finalisation of LPG enrolment plan for 1998-99 due to import capacity constraints. In September 1998, Govt. has approved the release of 25 lakhs new connections and 25 lakh DBCs

and in December 1998. the number of new connections to be released was revised from 25 to 35 lakhs for the whole country. In addition, Govt. has approved release of additional 3 lakh new LPG connections exclusively for Delhi Market during 1998-99 against surrender of kerosene quota being distributed to 3 lakh families in Delhi. With this, most of the waiting list in Delhi is expected to be cleared by 31st March, 1999.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Dubious Deals in I.A.F.

2. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the Press Report appeared in the "PIONEER" dated December 9, 1998 regarding a major racket in operation in the I.A.F. for purchasing sub-standard spares for transport planes and helicopters compromising flight safety and operational readiness;

(b) if so, whether the sub-standard spares are being bought from the dubious foreign suppliers;

(c) if so, whether over 40% of IAF accidents are caused due to technical defects of sub-standard spares;

(d) if so, whether recently tyres of dubious quality were responsible in two recent tyre burst incidents of fighter aircraft; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to check such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

(e) There are in built time tested checks and balances in the IAF provisioning system.

12.16 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at sixteen minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

12.16 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Surendra Prasad Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Item No. 4. Shri L.K. Advani.

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Prof. Rita Verma, Shrimati Abha Mahto and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1 p.m.

12.17 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirteen of the Clock.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past Thirteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

Item No. 4. Shri L.K. Advani.