

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I have been to Tarapur . . . (Interruptions)

12.00 hrs.

I have actually toured Tarapur.

[English]

I have already travelled to Tarapur. That is not the point and this is no way of arguing . . . (Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : How can you say that you have not received any complaints. Lakhs of complaints have been made.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : If one or two complaints have been received, I have given a reply in that regard in the House also. Still if you are insisting that you have got a complaint, you may forward it to me and I'll look into it.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : What do you mean by saying that you'll look into it ? The complaints all already with you. Why are you sitting over the files ?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Shri Jaswant Singh is seated there with you. He has raised all these points in detail in the Committee on Energy. Hon'ble Member may go through that report and if he is not satisfied even after that, he may raise the matter in the House.

[English]

I think, a lot of irresponsible statement are made on nuclear safety . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : I think, the Minister is irresponsible. You are irresponsible. How dare you make such a charge here ? . . . (Interruptions) How dare you make such a charge of irresponsibility ? It is the Executive that is irresponsible and not this House . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, I am making the statement with a full sense of responsibility. In each nuclear plant there is detailed surveys of all effluents—air, water and so on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister wants to mislead the House. Tarapur falls under my constituency. I would like to tell him that I am ready to take him along to that particular place in Tarapur. I have raised this matter time and again and my question No. 176 pertains to this very subject. If Hon'ble Minister is prepared to visit Tarapur on this Saturday or Sunday, I am ready to go with him to Tarapur.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a very good offer.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, safety measures are not being adopted in Tarapur and the same is the case in Kota also.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

LPG Consumers

*162. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Indian Oil Corporation has recently set-up emergency service cells in some States to provide safety to its L.P.G. consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether complaints regarding leakages in LPG gas cylinders are attended to promptly;

(d) if so, the maximum time taken in this regard;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore;

(f) whether the Government propose to issue directives to other oil companies also to provide these facilities to its L.P.G. consumers;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the number of consumers likely to be benefited as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :
(a) and (b) The first emergency service cell to attend to the leakage complaints of LPG customers during Holidays and Sundays and outside the normal working hours of the distributors was commissioned in Delhi by IOC on 22nd July, 1983. As on 1.1.1997 Indian Oil Corporation is operating 419 emergency service cells in different states.

(c) and (d) LPG leakage complaints are attended to promptly by the distributors as well as emergency service cell operator. Normally the complaint is attended within 2 hours of receipt of such complaint.

(e) Does not arise, in view of (c) and (d) above.

(f) Public Sector Oil Companies, namely IOC, HPC and BPC are operating emergency service cells on Industry basis wherever all the 3 oil companies or 2 oil companies are having distributorship network. Emergency service cells in such cases are established for various LPG markets on Industry basis and the activity is coordinated by one of the oil companies for each state. Emergency service cell facilities thus operated on Industry basis are available to all the customers in the market irrespective of the LPG marketing company to which the distributorship is attached.

(g) and (h) BPCL and HPCL are operating 46 and 145 emergency service cells respectively all over the country and the number of customers expected to be benefited by these emergency service cell is about 87 lakhs. Otherwise, from total number of Industry emergency service cells, making 610, 192 lakhs customers are being serviced.

Enhancement of Monetary Limit

*167. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :
SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether various delegations have requested the Government to enhance the monetary limit for identification of persons below poverty line;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) present monetary limit for identification of persons below poverty line;

(d) the details of the new formula under which the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country were estimated during 1995-96;

(e) the State-wise number of persons living below the poverty line at present; and

(f) the steps being taken to reduce the disparity among rich and poor during Ninth Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The poverty line is continuously updated for change in the price rise.

(c) The poverty line is expressed in terms of monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs.49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas in 1993-94. These are updated to Rs. 229.14 in rural areas and Rs. 264.38 in urban areas for the year 1993-94.

(d) and (e) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Projections on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand. It defined the poverty line as monthly per capita consumer expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas at 1973-74 prices corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 in rural areas and 2100 in urban areas. The percentage of people below the poverty line is calculated from the expenditure class-wise distribution of persons obtained from the NSS data on consumer expenditure, after pro-rata adjusting it to CSO level of consumption, in conjunction with the poverty line.

The Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor constituted by the Planning Commission outlines an alternative methodology to estimate poverty at national and state level. It accepted the Task Force poverty line and derived State-specific poverty lines using state-specific price indices. From the State-specific poverty lines and the NSS consumer expenditure distribution without any adjustment, the Expert Group provided estimates of poverty at national and state level from the quinquennial consumer expenditure survey of the NSS.

The estimates of state-wise poverty for the year 1987-88 are given in Statement-I and II for official method and Expert Group Method respectively. The Planning Commission has also present to the Consultative Committee of Parliament State-wise estimates of poverty by the two methods for 1993-94, which are given in Statement III and IV. Certain technical details are under examination and a final view is to be taken on these estimates shortly.

(f) The anti-poverty asset generation programme such as the Integrated Rural Development Programme and wage employment generation programmes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Employment Assurance Scheme, Nehru Rozgar Yojana etc. are expected to reduce the disparity between rich and poor by raising the income of the poor over and above the effects arising out of the general growth process.