

received either from State Government or Private Society/ Trust for establishment of a new medical college at Bhuj.

Begging Children

3941. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of teenaged begging children and the children used for begging in the country; and

(b) the action taken by the Government to form any scheme for the upliftment of such children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) No survey regarding number of teenaged begging children and the children used for begging in the country has been undertaken.

Beggars Home under Anti-Beggary Law or under any other Scheme, are established by State Governments.

This Ministry has a Scheme for welfare of street children for giving grant-in-aid to Non Governmental Organisations for providing non-institutional basic services for the care, protection and development of street children facing destitute, neglect, abuse and exploitation.

Private Importers of LPG

3942. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private companies importing LPG have sought the marketing co-operation of IOC and other nationalised oil companies;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to assess the potential for cooperation with private importers of LPG; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per the Govt. Policy of liberalisation and to supplement the LPG marketed by PSU Oil Companies, LPG imports were decanalised in April'93 and the LPG Control Order was amended facilitating the import and marketing of LPG by the private parties under parallel marketing scheme at market related price. Considering that the private parties were not having required infrastructure and expertise to import LPG and that it would take some time for the private parties to develop their own LPG import infrastructure, PSU Oil

Companies were directed to facilitate private imports without jeopardising PSU Oil Companies' own imports. Accordingly some private parties imported LPG through facilities of PSUs.

So far, 8 private parties have developed and commissioned their own import facilities at various port locations. In addition, 7 more private parties are developing LPG import facilities and they are at various stage of construction.

(b) and (c) As it was not required, no specific survey has been conducted by the PSU Oil companies to assess the potential for co-operation with private marketers of LPG.

Deep Water Exploration

3943. SHRI T.R. BAALU :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation has taken up new exploration work for finding new oil and gas fields in the deep water offshore areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such explorations are being carried out by ONGC in Kaveri Basin off-shore also;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action plan of the Government to take up deep water exploration in Kaveri Basin offshore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. ONGC has chalked out a strategy for exploration in deep waters. On the basis of interpretation of seismic data acquired, four prospects both in the West and East Coast have been prioritised for exploratory drilling.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. One well CDW-1 is presently under drilling in Cauvery Offshore on the East coast in the water depth of 771m. with a target depth of 2600 m., out of the prioritised locations mentioned above.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) The future action plan in the Cauvery basin would depend upon the results of the exploratory drilling currently under progress.