

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The Southern Gas Grid has not been conceived to meet the LPG demand as such.

[Translation]

**Salient aspects on SCs/STs for Development**

4100. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:  
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government received a number of reports from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details of the salient points made therein;
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government have issued any orders recently for reducing the percentage of SCs/STs reservations to 5% and 4% respectively;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the specific rationales for such changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in discharge of its duties under Section 2 clause (5) sub-clause (d) of the Constitution (65th Amendment) Act, 1990 presented its Annual Reports. As per Section 6 of the Act, the Reports alongwith Action Taken Report are to be laid on the Table of the House.

Salient points of the report and action taken could be revealed once the reports are laid on the Table of the House.

- (d) No Sir.
- (e) Does not arise.
- (f) Does not arise.

[English]

**Shortage of Oil and Petroleum Product**

4101. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA:  
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:  
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI CHANDU LAL AJMEERA:  
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

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

- (a) whether the recent cyclone at the Kandla Port has its impact on availability of oil and petroleum products in Northern region;
- (b) whether shortage of petroleum products has affected several other cities also;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the contingency plan evolved to ward off shortage of diesel and cooking gas and petroleum products; and
- (e) the time by which Kandla-Bhatinda (Punjab) pipeline is likely to be started normal functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) All POL related operations including LPG were suspended at Kandla with effect from 9.6.1998 following a severe cyclonic storm. This affected the product availability in Northern Region to some extent. But no shortage to meet the demand in all parts of the country was allowed to occur.

By undertaking movement from alternative sources and utilizing the inventories, full demand of all petroleum products was met throughout the country including Northern Region, whose product demand is met partially through imports from Kandla.

- (d) The following actions have been planned and taken to ward off shortage of diesel, LPG and other petroleum products:-
- (i) Maximization of indigenous production.
  - (ii) Road/rail movement of POL products maximized to the Northern Region from alternate sources.
  - (iii) A Task Force has been constituted by MoP & NG for reviewing the situation periodically.
  - (iv) The situation is being closely monitored for ensuring expeditious restoration of port facilities at Kandla. Most of the POL handling facilities at Kandla have already been restored, except LPG. Major distribution channel from Kandla, namely, Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline, has become fully operational and rail and road despatch has also commenced ex-Kandla.
  - (v) Augmentation of LPG imports at Mangalore.

- (vi) Augmentation of imports of POL products through other ports.
- (vii) Pegging per capita LPG consumption at last year's average.
- (viii) The Railways have been requested to accord white hot priority for movement of LPG rakes ex-Mumbai and Uran to North-West.

(e) Pumping in Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline started on 22.6.1998 and normal pumping was resumed on 23.6.1998.

#### **Liberalisation of Sugar Industry**

4102. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :  
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

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

(a) whether the Sugar Industry is going to be more competitive internationally;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to give a complete free hand to sugar unit;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to minimise the restrictions on sugar industry and to give reasonable price for the farmers;

(e) whether the Government propose to change the ratio of free sale sugar;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) the extent to which the Indian Sugar Industry have urged the Government to liberalise the industry;

(h) whether the Government propose to purchase the Sugar for PDS from the open market; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) to (f) Government had in March, 1997 appointed a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.B. Mahajan, ex-Food Secretary to study the development and growth of Sugar industry in India vis-a-vis other sugar producing countries and suggest modifications, amendments or repeal of any existing law and controls in order to increase production and efficiency through modernisation. The Committee has since submitted its report on 15.4.98. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination in the Government.

(g) The Industry has been asking for liberalisation for specific areas from time to time.

(h) Yes, Sir. The Government have decided to meet the shortfall in levy quota of sugar, only for the current year, through purchase out of the freesale quota of the sugar mills.

(i) Does not arise.

[English]

12.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

...(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : We want Women's Bill. I am also Leader of a Party. I was not called to the Leaders' meeting ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me complete my observations.

12.01 hrs.

*(At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee, and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mamata Ji, please resume your seat. Let me complete my observations.

12.02 hrs.

#### **OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER**

MR. SPEAKER : As the Members are aware, yesterday, that is, 13th July, 1998, the House was witness to highly unparliamentary and disorderly scenes in the evening which compelled me to adjourn the House for the day. As the hon. Members would recall when the House met after a series of adjournments at 1730 hours, several hon. Members rushed to the well of the House menacingly and crowded around my Chair and started raising slogans. A Member, Shri Surender Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad) went to the extent of snatching papers from my desk. To facilitate transaction of the listed business, I called Shri M. Thumbi Durai, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs to introduce the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Bill, 1998 which was listed at item No. 10 in yesterday's List of Business for introduction. As the Minister was seeking the leave of the House, the same Member, Shri Surender Prasad Yadav (Jahanabad) aided by another Member, Shri Ajit Kumar Mehta, forcibly snatched papers from the Minister and prevented him from introducing the Bill. Thereafter, there was complete pandemonium in the House. Under these circumstances,