

**LPG Agencies**

4882. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :  
 SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
 SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI :  
 SHRI P. SANKARAN :  
 SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
 SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :  
 SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :  
 SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :  
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
 SHRI P.C. THOMAS :  
 SHRI RAMANAND SINGH :  
 SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA :  
 SHRI BHIM DAHAL :  
 SHRI JUAL ORAM :  
 SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

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

- (a) the criteria adopted for allotting LPG agencies to the distributors and the rules governing the agencies;
- (b) the number of LPG agencies, functioning in the country at present, State-wise and company-wise;
- (c) the number of such agencies in the hilly areas particularly in Ranchi;
- (d) the number of applications received for allotment of gas agencies, State-wise;
- (e) the number of applications approved and the number out of them lying pending, State-wise; and
- (f) the number of new agencies proposed to be allotted during the current year alongwith the locations, State-wise and category-wise and in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) As per existing policy, oil companies advertise the locations included in the approved Marketing Plans under different reserved categories in two newspapers, one in English daily and one in vernacular daily, and invite applications from the candidates meeting the eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence income, multiple dealership norms, etc. Selection of the

eligible candidates is made by the duly constituted Dealer Selection Boards. Reservation for different categories have been provided as under :

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	—	25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	—	5%
Paramilitary/Police/Govt. Personnel (PMP)	—	8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	—	8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	—	2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	—	2%
Open (O)	—	50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others in all women categories.

(b) As on 2.4.1998 there were 5538 LPG distributorships functioning all over the country.

(c) Oil companies are operating 318 LPG distributorships in hilly areas. Ranchi has not been identified as a hilly area in the list of hilly areas approved by the Planning Commission. However, at present there are 21 LPG distributorships in Ranchi.

(d) to (f) 1702 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 for all over the country. The receipt of applications and its scrutiny after advertisement is a continuous ongoing process. Selection of a distributor is done by the Dealer Selection Board from the applicants applying for an agency.

[*Translation*]

**Sub-Regional Office**

4883. SHRI MANJUNATH AYANUR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been made for opening of Sub-Regional office of Provident Fund at Shimoga District, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is pending with the Government; and

(c) the present position of the proposal and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYANA JATIYA) : (a) to (c) The proposal to open a new Sub-Regional Office (S.R.O.) is approved by the Executive Committee of the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provided Fund. Generally, such proposals are initially considered and approved by the Regional Committee, EPF, which is a tripartite body set up for advising the CBT on operation of EPF Schemes in the State. There have been representations from various quarters for opening an SRO at Shimoga from time to time since July, 1995. Earlier, as per the norms, opening of SRO at Shimoga was not *prima-facie* found feasible. However, pursuant to notification of some new districts in the State in July, 1997 there is a need for re-organisation in of SRC in Karnataka. Accordingly, the EPF Organisation has decided to place the matter before the Regional Committee, EPF in its ensuing Meeting.

[English]

#### Requirement of Blood in NIMHANS, Bangalore

4884. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the average requirement of blood every day in NIMHANS, Bangalore;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the requirement of blood in Nimhans, Bangalore after the decision of the Supreme Court banning paid donors;

(c) whether the blood bank at Nimhans has been upgraded to higher storage capacity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) The requirement of blood in NIMHANS every day on an average is 10 units of whole blood; 5 units of Fesh Frozen Plasma; 5 units of blood for Plasmapheresis; 5 units of Platelet Concentrate and 25 to 30 units of Packed Cells.

(b) After the decision of the Supreme Court banning paid donors, no blood is collected at NIMHANS from

Professional donors and the requirement of blood is met from Voluntary Donors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The blood bank at NIMHANS has been upgraded and shifted to a new building with space as specified by the Drugs Controller of India. It has been designated as "Modern Blood Bank" by Drugs Controller of Karnataka. NIMHANS have specified space and equipments to bleed, store and screen the blood with equipment for component separation and plasmapheresis.

[Translation]

#### Provisions for Medical Courts

4885. SHRI ADITYANATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to create medical courts on the lines of labour courts, sales-tax courts/tribunals and income-tax tribunals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) All services, if rendered for consideration have been covered under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. A consumer can file an allegation in writing in a consumer court against a medical practitioner and the consumer court has the power to direct the opposite party to pay such amount as may be awarded by it as compensation to the consumer for the loss or injury suffered by the consumer due to the negligence of the opposite party.

[English]

#### HIV Cases

4886. SHRI VINOD KHANNA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned '28 HIV positive cases