

(e) the action proposed to be taken to compensate Rajasthan State Electricity Board (RSEB) for financial losses as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per original schedule, gas supply to Ramgarh extension project was to begin in April, 1995, whereas RSEB completed the project only in January, 1996. Gas supply commenced only from June 1996 when gas became available from the fields of Oil India Limited.

(e) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

#### **Reservation for Backward Classes in Educational Institutions**

1935. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to provide 27 per cent reservation for the backward classes in educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir.

A proposal for providing 27% reservation to Backward Classes in educational institutions is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

#### **Atrocities on Women**

1936. SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government chalked out any plans to check atrocities against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposed to hold any conference of State Ministers concerned and the voluntary agencies engaged in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

#### **Contractual Appointment of Journalists**

1937. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the owners of big newspapers in the country are making contractual appointments of the journalists and workers in violation of the recommendations of the wage board;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to check such appointments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Wage Boards for Journalists and Non-Journalist newspaper and news-agency employees are advisory in nature. The Government has been receiving representations regarding ban on contract employment etc. At present there is no proposal to amend the Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 in this regard.

[English]

#### **Child Adoption**

1938. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian child is losing in adoption by parents from the West and they are turning to other neighbouring countries for this purpose due to greedy agent and social activities;

(b) whether the Government proposed to streamline the child adoption so as the said children get foster home outside the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No Sir, No such information is available with the Government.

(b) and (c) The adoption of Indian children outside the country has been streamlined and is governed by the "Revised Guidelines for Adoption of Indian Children" issued by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment on 29th May,

1995. Under these guidelines, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, *inter alia*, confers recognition upon both Indian and foreign adoption agencies working in the field of inter-country adoption *vis-a-vis* Indian children on the condition that these agencies strictly adhere to the aforesaid guidelines.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Malpractices in FCI Godown, Naraina**

1939. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether malpractices in mixing the rejected sub standard foodgrains with good quality of foodgrains were detected in Food Corporation of India Godown in Naraina, Delhi during December, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such malpractices have been detected in other godowns of FCI;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government against the officials responsible for this practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Neither any such practice is followed nor any such complaint has been received from any of the godowns of FCI.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

#### **LPG Dealership**

1940. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR) : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one L.P.G. dealership operating in district Madhubani (Bihar) catering the need of 16 Panchayats/Blocks in Ghogharia Block;

(b) if so, whether there is a demand for more L.P.G. dealership in that area; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To meet the demand of the area, the following five LPG distributorships have been included in the approved LPG Marketing Plans for setting up LPG distributorships in Madhubani Distt. of Bihar:

1. Ghoghardiha
2. Karmagh
3. Jainagar
4. Benipatti
5. Madhubani

Selection of distributors is to be made by the Dealer Selection Board through interview of candidates applying against advertisements issued.

[Translation]

#### **Unemployment Problem**

1941. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage labour oriented technology for the eradication of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (c) The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterized by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

[English]

#### **Foreign Mercenaries**

1942. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign mercenaries operating in different parts of the country; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in curtailing the activities of these mercenaries?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) A number of foreign mercenaries are reported to be operating in Jammu & Kashmir. The main militant outfits comprising of foreign mercenaries are:

1. Hizbul Mujahideen