

### Ban on Use of Naptha

451. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of NAPHTHA is banned and even the small quantities of 12 kls. per month is not being released to small scale units by the oil corporation from its refineries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directions to the oil corporations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon naphtha, becoming a decontrolled product with effect from 1.4.1998, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas stopped approving linkages of naphtha except for power generation. Government has not imposed any ban on use or supply of naphtha. However, in order to prevent diversion of this product for adulteration, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued guidelines for allocation of naphtha by oil companies to consumers in different sectors which are as follows:

The Oil Company itself will make the allocation and supply naphtha. In respect of small scale units, having requirement of less than 50000 MT per annum, based on the recommendation of Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC), supply of naphtha should be committed initially for a period of one year and the concerned oil company should visit the plant and record a clear certificate that naphtha is being used for the purpose for which it has been allocated/supplied. On establishment of utilizing naphtha for manufacture of end products of standard specifications and selling the products to the genuine customers, supply can be made on annual basis for 3 years after verification of proper utilization every year by the concerned oil company and, if necessary, by the TEC, regular allocation of naphtha can be made after 3 years of satisfactory performance by the unit.

### LNG Projects

452. SHRI T. R. BALLU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are monitoring various LNG projects being implemented by the Petronet LNG Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time bound programme for completion of these projects?

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

(b) Petronet LNG proposes to establish a 5 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) LNG Project at Dahej in Gujarat and a 2.5 million tonne per annum (MMTPA) project at Cochin in Kerala. It has completed certain pre-project activities and obtained Letter of Intent in respect of land at Dahej and Cochin. The Company is in the process of selecting Engineering Procurement Construction Contractors (EPCC) for both the projects. Thereafter, it is estimated that construction of projects might take 36 to 42 months approximately. The company expects to complete the financial closure by mid-1999.

Petronet LNG in association of Petronas of Malaysia has also bid against a tender floated by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) for establishing an LNG Terminal at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. The decision of TIDCO awaited.

[Translation]

### Review on Public Distribution System

453. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY :

SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the Public Distribution System in rural/remote areas of the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government conducted mid-term review on Public Distribution System during the Eighth-Five-Year Plan;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether the target fixed for the plan period has been achieved;

(e) the steps taken to achieve the target by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) In order to strengthen the Public Distribution System in rural/remote areas of the country Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/Union Territories for construction of godowns for storage of PDS commodities and for purchase of trucks/vans for use as mobile fair price shops as well as for carrying PDS commodities to Fair Price Shops for effective and efficient door delivery.

The assistance provided to States/Union Territories during each of the last three years under the two schemes is as follows :

Year	Godown Scheme		Mobile Van Scheme		
	Capacity	No. of Godowns	Amount	No. of vehicles	Amount
	(In Mts)		(Rs. in lakhs)		(Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	26492	58	755	129	655.70
1996-97	37930	92	755	104	660.00
1997-98	50600	85	1188	157	949.99

(b) and (c) The Government did not carry out any special appraisal of the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the 8th Five Year Plan period. However, an evaluation of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) launched in 1992 was carried out by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. This evaluation indicated that the scheme was generally beneficial to the vulnerable sections of the population cutting across the regions and States. The study pointed out some gaps and constraints in the scheme. These were brought to the notice of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who are responsible for the day-to-day implementation of PDS for suitable intervention by them.

(d) to (f) The targets under the RPDS were proposed by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. As per reports received from the State Governments, country level targets were achieved in the case of opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards and elimination of bogus cards.

#### Kala-Azar Cases

454. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some districts of Bihar reeling under Kala-azar;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of deaths by Kala-azar;

(c) whether the Government are aware that medicines for Kala-azar are available in the market on an exorbitant rates which are beyond the reach of the common man; and

(d) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to check the spread of this disease and provide the medicines at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) Kala-azar cases have been reported from 38 districts of Bihar.

(b) As per the reports received from the State Health authorities, deaths due to Kala-azar in Bihar during the last few years are as under :-

Year	Cases	Deaths
1995	21045	259
1996	25056	674
1997	15948	251
1998 (Upto August)	9482	171

(c) Medicines for treatment of Kala-azar being provided to the State Govts. free of cost by the Central Govt. under the National Kala-azar Control Programme. These medicines are made available to the patients through PHCs/Hospitals free of cost.

(d) The strategy adopted for control of Kala-azar are as under :-

- Supply of anti Kala-azar drug free of cost through the State Governments.
- Interruptions of transmission through vector control by undertaking residual spray of DDT in affected areas.
- Early diagnosis and complete treatment through Primary Health Care System.
- Health education and community participation.

#### Fake Caste Certificate

455. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of the getting jobs reserved for the scheduled caste and scheduled tribe on the basis of fake caste certificates have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government against those persons;

(c) whether a case of appointment and promotion of one N.D.M.C. officer on the basis of fake caste certificate has also come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) to (c) Information relating to case of appointment made on the basis of fake certificates is not maintained by the Central Government. However,