

13.46 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for Lunch Till
Forty Five Minutes Past Fourteen of the
Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at
Fifty Three Minutes Past Fourteen of the
Clock*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to set up LPG outlets in all the towns of Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh**

[*English*]

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH (Raigarh): Sir, Raigarh which is predominantly inhabited by tribals, is a backward district of Madhya Pradesh. The population of district is over 16 lakh which spread over 300 kilometers. The people of that district depended on firewood for fuel purpose since time immemorable as there was no dearth of firewood. But now it has become a problem for them as restriction has been imposed on the felling of trees and collection of firewood. The tribals mostly suffer on account of this restriction. Under the circumstances, the people of the district have to depend on L.P.G. for fuel purpose, but the Hindustan Petroleum Ltd. and Indane have opened only one LPG agency each in the entire district of Raigarh. Unless adequate number of LPG agencies are set up in the district the people will continue to face the fuel problem. There are seven towns in the district and LPG outlets should be set up in every town. Towns like Jashpur Nagar, Pathalagaon, Bharamjaigarh, Kharsia and Sarangarh are located 211, 112, 75, 40 and 52 kms away respectively from Raigarh town. As such, there is a justification and urgent need to open LPG agencies in all these towns.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that LPG outlets should be set up in all the towns of Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh forthwith.

(ii) **Need to check the spread of thalassemia disease in the country.**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that the thalassemia disease has been spreading in different parts of the country. According to an estimate, twenty-five million of people in India presently carry this disease and the prevalence is very high among some communities. About ten thousand babies born every day, carry this disease. The cost of the treatment of this disease is very high. It is estimated that for one child, more than Rs. 1.25 lakh is required, which is out of reach of most of the parents.

Unless joint efforts are made by the voluntary agencies, media and Government, it is very difficult to check the spread of this disease. Prevention is better than cure and that is the only way out. Therefore, it is necessary to launch an intensive awareness campaign through media about the disease. The Government should set medical facilities for the treatment of this disease.

There is also need to set up a bone marrow transplant center at the All India Institute of Medical sciences, as this would help cure the disease, which requires blood transfusion at an average of once every month. The treatment of this disease should be made easier and within the reach of the patients.

In view of this, I request the Central Government to pay attention to mass education regarding the disease, education of parents of thalassaemic children and its management and also help blood banks in collecting blood, so that the prevention and cure of the disease would become easier.