

assets to any authority whether it is the presiding authority or any other authority. This fact should make us think about its remedy and also to have a sort of introspection about ourselves. Therefore, I submit that behind this Bill that has been put forward there are a lot of anxieties which our young friend has expressed. There is anxiety about the deterioration of the character, status and reputation of the representatives of the people. The reference to the Members of Parliament is only symbolic and it has a very wider connotation. It is not merely the Members of Parliament, but the representatives of the people in every field. It also implies an anxiety about the worsening political situation.

In the statement of Objects and Reasons, the Hon. Member has expressed anxiety about—should I use the word—the rotten conditions of the administration. He has also expressed anxiety about the increasing degree of our falling moral standards. He has also in a way expressed anxiety over our failure all these years to infuse a sense of discipline, a sense of social obligation amongst the representatives of the people. Therefore, the Bill should not be taken as it appears to be so. It has a wider connotation.

Howsoever plausible the principle may be or howsoever laudable its intentions may be, the Bill, as it stands, may not be able to achieve its objectives. Yet at the same time the Government will have to think, rethink and think a number of times about how to remove these anxieties and bring about a better social, political and administrative structure in this country. The Bill, as I said, may not apparently be able to achieve its objective because it only asks or compels the representatives of the people to submit or declare their assets after they become Members of the House and after they cease to be members of the House. Now, these declarations may be formal or may subsequently happen to be formal. But the question is: is there anybody to

take care of these declarations? If no notice is taken of these declarations and if they remain merely formal, then the provisions in this Bill will not serve any purpose whatsoever.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Patil, you can continue next time. Now, the House will take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

18.00 hrs

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Number of Gas Consumers per Agent

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री (सैदपुर) : माननीय उपाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे पहले मैं माननीय अध्यक्ष जी को बधाई देना चाहूंगा, जिन्होंने ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा स्वीकार की। आज कुकिंग गैस, प्रत्येक शहर में रहने वाले व्यक्ति के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण एवं आवश्यक जीवन का अंग बन गयी है। हम लोग जबसे यहाँ आए हैं तब से हमने स्वयं यह देखा है कि हर रोज दो-चार आदमी हमारे पास पहुँचते हैं और कहते हैं कि हमको कुकिंग गैस चाहिए। पालियामेंट में जब हम लोग आते हैं तो यहां के सुरक्षा सैनिक से लेकर पीयून तक, इसी चक्कर में रहते हैं कि उन्हें और उनके रिश्तेदारों को जल्दी से जल्दी कुकिंग गैस मिल जानी चाहिए।

कुकिंग गैस के लिए बहुत समस्याएं हैं। सबसे पहली समस्या यह है कि आज कुकिंग गैस समय पर सप्लाई नहीं होती है। सिलेंडर खत्म होने पर जब आर्डर दिया जाता है तो चार-पाँच दिन के बाद ही हमको इसकी सप्लाई होती है। किसी प्रकार सप्लाई हो भी जाए तो ऐसा बहुत ही कम चांस होता है

[श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री]

जबकि इनमें कम्पलीट गैस भरी हुई हो। पिछले महीनों में अखबार में पढ़ने को मिला था कि शाहदरा में आठ-आठ, दस-दस किलो पानी एक-एक कुकिंग गैस के अन्दर मिला है। एक रिपोर्ट के अनुसार इन्डियन ऑयल कारपोरेशन में पचास हजार रुपये की चोरी प्रतिदिन कुकिंग गैस में हो रही है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि यह जो चोरी, विलम्ब से सप्लाई और सिलेण्डर में पानी भरा हुआ होता है, इसके बारे में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है? सरकार ने ऐसे कितने केसेज पकड़े और उन केसेज में अब तक क्या किया? जो प्रश्न था, उसमें मंत्री जी ने बताया था कि बम्बई में 6 हजार, दिल्ली में 4 हजार 10 लाख से ज्यादा की आबादी में 3,500 और दो लाख से दस लाख तक की आबादी में तीन हजार गैस कनेक्शन देते हैं। इसके बाद भी यह सुनने में आता है कि गैस एजेंसी के लोगों को परेशानी होती है और घाटा होता है। मंत्री जी ने जो विवरण दिया था, उसके अनुसार ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि जिन 6 हजार गैस एजेंसीज को ये कनेक्शन देते हैं, उनको लगभग 20 हजार रुपए पर-मंथ की आमदनी होती है। वाराणसी, कानपुर, लखनऊ और दिल्ली में जो ऐसी तमाम घटनायें होती हैं, यह हमारी समझ में नहीं आता है। जिन एजेंसीज में ब्लैक मार्किटिंग होती है, ऐसे केसेज में मंत्री जी क्या कार्यवाही करते हैं? कितनी गैस एजेंसीज को कैसिल किया है? उपभोक्ताओं की आज लाइन लगी हुई है। सन् 1979 में पौने तीन लाख उपभोक्ताओं के आवेदन पत्र थे। लेकिन, पिछले प्रश्न में हम लोगों ने देखा कि चार लाख तीन हजार 675 प्रार्थना पत्र ऐसे हैं, जिन पर विचार होना बाकी है।

मंत्री जी ने पिछली बार हाऊस में कहा था कि हम बहुत जल्दी उपभोक्ताओं की कमी को पूरा कर देंगे। समझ में नहीं आता कि यह दोनों बातें कैसे कन्ट्रिडिक्टरी हैं? जब हम आंकड़े देखते हैं तो 1979 में पौने तीन लाख गैस-कनेक्शन के लिए आवेदन पत्र थे और आज यह 4 लाख 3 हजार से भी अधिक हैं। हम यह स्पष्ट रूप से जानना चाहेंगे कि गैस-कनेक्शन की इस समय क्या स्थिति है? गैस कम है या पूरे उपभोक्ताओं के लिए है या नहीं है?

इसी संदर्भ में मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान एक बात की तरफ और ले जाना चाहता हूं। अगर हम नई दिल्ली और पुरानी दिल्ली को दो अलग-अलग स्थान मान लें और दोनों जगहों से आवेदन पत्र लें तो 10 हजार आवेदन-पत्र आ जाते हैं जिनको गैस-कनेक्शन की जरूरत होती है। कभी-कभी ऐसा देखने में आया है कि नई दिल्ली के लोगों को एक स्थान के लोगों को तो गैस-कनेक्शन मिल जाता है और उसी डेट की एप्लीकेशन वाले दूसरे स्थान वाले लोगों को गैस-कनेक्शन मिलता ही नहीं है। इस प्रकार के मामले मेरे सामने आये हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि ऐसा क्यों होता है? बनारस में उसी डेट की एप्लीकेशन वाले को मिल जाता है, दिल्ली में नहीं मिलता है, ऐसा क्यों होता है?

इसी सिलसिले में मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूं कि एक बार गैस-कनेक्शन एक आदमी के नाम पर एलाट कर दिया गया और यदि उसके बाद उस आदमी का ट्रांसफर कहीं दूसरी जगह हो गया या उसकी मृत्यु हो गयी तो उसके नाम से जो गैस कनेक्शन दिया गया होता है वह उसके लड़के के नाम

या परिवार के किसी अन्य व्यक्ति के नाम ट्रांसफर नहीं होता है। ऐसा क्यों होता है? आप सरकारी आवास के मामले में देख लें यदि हम नौकरी कर रहे हैं तो सरकारी आवास हमको मिलेगा, लेकिन अगर हम रिटायर कर जाते हैं, और हमारा लड़का सरकारी नौकरी में काम कर रहा है तो हमारा आवास उसको एलाट हो जाएगा, लेकिन कनेक्शन के मामले में पता नहीं कि क्या बात है, क्यों नाम ट्रांसफर नहीं किया जाता है?

एक चीज मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब गैस कनेक्शन लिया जाता है तो 200 रुपये अथवा 250 रुपये सिक्क्योरिटी डिपोजिट जमा होती है जिस पर कोई सूद नहीं मिलता है। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि जब किसी ने गैस कनेक्शन ले लिया और 10, 5 साल वह उसके पास रहेगा तो उसकी यह सिक्क्योरिटी डिपोजिट की रकम किस खाते में जमा होती है और क्या इस पर इन्टरेस्ट मिलता है? अगर नहीं तो इसका क्या कारण है और क्यों नहीं मिलता है? मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस कुकिंग गैस के सिलसिले में सिक्क्योरिटी डिपोजिट का कितना रुपया जमा है और उसका इन्टरेस्ट क्या सरकार को मिल रहा है या वह इन्टरेस्ट गैस एजेंसी वाले को मिल रहा है?

गैस एजेंसी के बारे में भी मैं संक्षिप्त में कहना चाहूंगा कि जितनी धांधली इसमें है, मैं समझता हूँ कि उतनी धांधली किसी और चीज के एलाटमेंट में नहीं है।

मैं मंत्री जी को इस मामले में बधाई देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस धांधली को समाप्त करने के लिए कई कदम उठाए हैं, लेकिन मैंने स्वयं देखा है कि जितने आपने कदम

उठाये हैं, ठीक उसका उल्टा हो गया है। मैंने मंत्री जी को वाराणसी का एक किस दिया था, उसमें गैस एजेंसी के बारे में कहा गया था कि प्रापर्टी के बेसिस पर दे दिया जाएगा। उसका प्रोपर्टी बेसिस बना ही नहीं, बना उसका जिसने लाख रुपया दे दिया। आपने इन्क्वायरी करायी, लेकिन आपको चुप हो जाना पड़ा।

अभी गाजीपुर में, जहां से मैं चुनकर आता हूँ, हरिजनों के लिए गैस-एजेंसी दी जाएगी। उसमें बीस आदमी ने एप्लाई किया, उन 20 में एक ऐसा आदमी है जिसके नाम से, उसके परिवार के नाम से अन्य रिश्तेदारों के नाम से कई दूसरी एजेंसी हैं, लेकिन उसी को इन्टरव्यू में बुलाया जाता है। लेकिन फिर उसको इन्टरव्यू में बुलाया गया और दूसरों का इन्टरव्यू रद्द कर दिया गया। इस भ्रष्टाचार के कारण जब उसी व्यक्ति को गैस एजेंसी दे दी जाएगी, तो मंत्री महोदय कहेंगे कि मैं फौरन चिट्ठी लिख रहा हूँ, इन्क्वायरी करा रहा हूँ। लेकिन डेढ़ दो लाख रुपये अधिकारियों ने हड़प लिए हैं। मंत्री महोदय इस प्रकार की बातों को कैसे रोकेंगे?

मंत्री महोदय ने इस बारे में एक कमेटी बनाई है, जो प्रापर्टी के अनुसार एजेंसी देगी। लेकिन प्रापर्टी फिक्स करने वाला आदमी भ्रष्ट है। जो साक्षात्कार लेता है, वह पहले नम्बर पर मेरा नाम डाल देगा, क्योंकि मैंने उसे एक लाख रुपया दिया है। मंत्री महोदय इस भ्रष्टाचार की रोक-थाम कैसे कर रहे हैं?

मंत्री महोदय ने उस दिन हाउस में कहा था कि हरिजनों को गैस की एजेंसीज के आबंटन में बड़ी सुविधा दी जा रही है, उसके लिये परसेंटेज और कोटा फिक्स किया गया

[श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री]

है। श्री बहुगुणा ने कहा था कि हमने अपने ही काल में यह कर दिया था। लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि हरिजनों के नाम पर गैस, डीजल और पेट्रोल पम्प की एजेंसीज देने में बहुत बड़ा धोखा है, जिसको मंत्री महोदय स्वयं जानते हैं। बड़े-बड़े लोग अपने हरिजन नौकर के नाम पर एजेंसी ले लेते हैं और रुपया भी लगा देते हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने अब यह व्यवस्था की है कि अब हरिजनों को बैंक से रुपया मिल जाएगा। लेकिन इससे पहले कई हजार गैस की एजेंसीज बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों को उनके हरिजन नौकरों के नाम पर दे दी गई हैं, जबकि वे हरिजन गैस की दुकान पर मालूली लेबरर या पेट्रोल पम्प पर तेल भरने वाले कर्मचारी के रूप में काम कर रहे हैं। यह एक बहुत गम्भीर मामला है। हरिजनों का शोषण हमेशा से होता आया है। नियमित रूप से यह जो उनका शोषण हो रहा है, मंत्री महोदय उसकी ओर भी ध्यान दें।

जहां तक हरिजनों को गैस की एजेंसी या पेट्रोल पम्प आवंटित करने का सम्बन्ध है, मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था करें कि जो बेरोजगार युवक स्वयं काम करना चाहते हैं, जो किसी से पूंजी नहीं लगवाना चाहते, उन्हें यह आवंटन किया जाए। इस बारे में लोगों से पूछा जाता है कि क्या आपके पास गोदाम है, दो-चार लाख रुपया है, क्या आपको अनुभव है। हजारों वर्षों से पीड़ित और शोषित हरिजनों को क्या अनुभव होगा? मैं पार्लियामेंट का मेम्बर बन कर यहां आ गया हूँ, लेकिन जहां तक गैस एजेंसी का सम्बन्ध है, मुझे कोई अनुभव नहीं है। इस स्थिति में मेरे पास एक-दो लाख रुपया न होने के कारण या

कोई बैंकिंग और सपोर्ट न होने के कारण मुझे एजेंसी नहीं मिलेगी। मंत्री महोदय इस पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान दें और ऐसा नियम बनाएं, जिससे सही आदमी को आवंटन हो।

जहां तक गाजीपुर का मामला है, मैं तीन-चार दिन पहले वहां गया था। मुझे बताया गया कि गैस एजेंसी खाली थी, मगर दूसरे लोगों को इन्टरव्यू में न बुला कर एक ही परिवार के चार आदमियों को चार नाम से बुला लिया गया। उनके लोग मिनिस्टर रहे हैं। प्रायर्टी में उनका नाम आएगा, जेनविन आदमियों के नाम छूट जाएंगे। मंत्री महोदय इस पर ध्यान दें।

मैं इस बात पर स्टैंड करता हूँ कि वाराणसी ए और बी की एजेंसी के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने जो एनक्वायरी करवाई है, उसकी रिपोर्ट उन्हें फिर गलत दी गई है और उन्हें गुमराह किया जा रहा है। उसमें कई लाख रुपए की घूस पर मामला तय हुआ है। घूस की रसीद नहीं मिलती है, वर्ना मैं उसे लाकर मंत्री महोदय के सामने पेश कर देता। वहां पर बहुत प्रभावशाली लोगों को दिया जा रहा है। मैं वाराणसी का रहने वाला हूँ और आज यदि मुझको वहां पर गैस की जरूरत हो तो मुझे उसका कनेक्शन मिल नहीं सकता है। वहां के लोग गैस कनेक्शन के लिए बिलबिलाकर घूम रहे हैं और दुकानदार बहुत अच्छे ढंग से ब्लैक कर रहे हैं और सोर्सफुल आदमियों को दे रहे हैं। ट्रक पर आए सारे के सारे सिलण्डर गायब हो जाते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा मन्त्री जी इन बातों पर गम्भीरता से ध्यान दें और इन कठिनाइयों को दूर करें। मेरे जो चार-पांच सवाल हैं उनके कंप्लीट उत्तर देने की कृपा करें।

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : Very wide ranging issues of importance have been raised by the Hon. Member. I would like to answer each one of them to the extent possible.

I do find that some of the points raised by the Hon. Member have far reaching consequences, particularly some of the points which the Hon. Member had raised with me. I also did feel that there was a great force in his arguments because he has written to me letters. I got it investigated more than once. He is aware of it. I was trying to find whether there is any chance for me to take action. I showed him all the papers. The report that came to me was of such a nature where he was helpless and I was also helpless. Sometimes, truth is such which does not come out notwithstanding the fact that one might make serious efforts.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri) : Who are these ingenious people to hide the truth ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : One aspect which the Hon. Member has raised at the very outset, was with reference to the cooking gas not being supplied on time. It is true that in various places cooking gas could not be supplied on time for diverse reasons. The reasons could be attributed to the refinery troubles, due to shut down, industrial relations, power cut restrictions and so on. Because of the gas cylinders not being supplied on time, people were facing lot of difficulties. And it is this which rather provoked me to take a decision for the purposes of supplying another cylinder. I had taken a meeting of the oil companies sometimes in September last and on the spot we took a decision and announced that whosoever would like to have double cylinder is welcome. I may bring to the notice of this House that by February, 1983 after the decision was taken, 45,000 connections have

been released all over the country. There are some cases where we have not been able to completely adjust them with the double cylinders. I am sure oil companies will release them at the earliest. I am also aware of one difficulty which was arising out of these double cylinders being given. Quite a large number of my colleagues in the Parliament coming from the rural areas had an objection. They said that this would create a problem with reference to the supply of gas cylinders to the less-populated towns—towns with a population of 20,000 to 50,000—where I was expecting that I will be reaching in 1983-84 but I may bring to the notice of the House that it has been ensured that release of second cylinder does not in any way affect the normal consumers enrolment programme embarked upon by the oil industry. I have worked out in such a fashion that it does not affect. But notwithstanding that, it is true that this problem of late supply is still there in various places.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No misuse of the second cylinder supply has come to your notice ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : This also is pregnant with mischief. Though officially, of course, nothing has come to my notice unofficially, when I was in Hyderabad, some people did tell me how it is being misused. But I have advised the officials to take care. We can try to see to the extent possible; that the mischief is prevented.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sudden checking.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I follow Sir. I have already requested my officials that they should have sporadic checking with the consumers also. Different steps will be taken but there is a force in the argument of the Hon. Member that in many cases there has been delay. We would like to avoid that delay because avoidance of

[Shri P. Shiv Shankar]

that delay would enable me to save the kerosene. It is precisely for that reason that we are making all these arrangements. I assure this House that there is no conscious delay and we will make every effort to see that the delay is avoided.

The other question raised by the Hon. Member is that when the cylinder is supplied, one does not have the cylinder to the capacity. 14.2 kgs. which has to be there in the cylinder is not available. All possible precautions have been taken by the oil companies to ensure that only those LPG cylinders with correct weight and intact seals are supplied to the customers. LPG cylinders are filled at the bottling plants of the oil companies or their concessionnaires in automatic as well as non-automatic machines. The Directorate of Weights and Measures of the Ministry of Civil Supplies and Cooperation check and stamp these machines at regular intervals. Random checks on the filled cylinders are made and short-filled cylinders, if any, are segregated. Checks are also made at the show-rooms and the godowns of the dealers at the time of delivery by the dealers. In spite of all these precautions, if any complaints of this nature are received, instructions have been issued to promptly look into those complaints and see that the grievances of the customers are alleviated.

We found that the spring balance, which we wanted to keep with the delivery boy, had not been of much use because normally the cylinders are being supplied by the distributors through the three-wheeler and because of the jerks, we found that after use for a couple of times it does not give the correct indication.

What we have been trying to get is a level indicator from the Electronics Department, an electronic weighing machine, which will be sturdy and will not lose its accuracy. This is being

undertaken by the Electronics Department through the research process. Once we are able to get this type of machine, it should not be difficult for us to arrange the weighment or fix the indicator with the cylinder itself, so that everybody would be in a position to know as to what exactly is the quantity that has been supplied.

I do concede that quite a large number of complaints were being received by the oil companies with reference to less quantity of LPG in the cylinders supplied. I would not like to go into the nature of the complaints, but wherever the complaints are registered, either with the distributors or with the company officials in the town, the officials have been advised to immediately look into them. The distributors have also been directed that they should try to alleviate the grievances of the customers. I assure the House that, so far as we are concerned, we will take all possible steps. But human ingenuity has to be given credence. It is possible that in some cases we may not be able to alleviate the grievances, but I assure the House that we will spare no effort to see that the grievances of the people are remedied to the extent possible.

The Hon. Member has referred to the malpractices. It is true that various malpractices were noticed, either at the level of the distributors or at the level of the delivery boys e.g. free delivery is not given, or refill is given out of turn, or refill is given ex-shop or godown, refill supplied to unauthorised customers, over-charging, delivery boys demanding more than the cash memo amount and so on and so forth. I have given only a few of them, because quite a large number of complaints have come in this regard.

I will now refer to the guidelines that we have given to the companies for the purpose of taking action. In case the complaint is found to be true, the action is of a penal nature. Warnings are given; after three warnings,

a show cause notice is given for the purpose of cancellation of the agency itself. I may also say that recently my Secretary has gone into this. He is trying to revise the guidelines so that further stringent action is taken against the distributors to see that this type of complaints could be avoided.

The Hon. Member has also referred to the LPG connections that are given area-wise. I may bring to the notice of the House that the availability of LPG from domestic sources is expected to increase substantially in the next 3-4 years. It will increase from about 6.2 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 to 1.8 million tonnes by about 1986-87. Government had approved the various stages, Phase I and Phase II, for setting up facilities for marketing LPG production. And they have also taken up in Phase III the various schemes and the facilities with reference to bottling plants, storage facilities, manufacture of LPG cylinders, pressure regulators, valves, tank wagons, and so on and so forth, so as to cope with the growth in the LPG production for the purpose of marketing.

Without going into those details, I may bring to the notice of the hon. House—because the Hon. Member has also raised about the connections part—that at present there are 55 lakhs existing consumers of cooking gas in the country, the number of waitlisted persons on 31st December 1982 stands at 42.62 lakhs and during 1982-83 we had planned a release of 14 lakhs new gas connections and up to March 1983 13.4 lakh connections have been released. There is a shortfall of 0.6 lakh connections as per the target, but that was because of diverse reasons, and in 1983-84 we have planned to release 19 lakhs new gas connections.

Sir, the Hon. Member has asked why in some cases there is early release of the gas connections and in some cases there is waitlist. It is possible that in some cases there might have been instances where persons have jumped

the queue and they were given gas connections. That is because of the diverse reasons, because sometimes it so happens that some people give the application along with the Civil Surgeon's medical certificate or something like that.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : No, no. I am talking about general cases.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : This is a special case as I said, but I am not aware, because it is possible, as for example, in a town where the gas agency has been given, those on the register of the oil company are a few in number. Supposing there is a town in which, say, hardly about 5000 or 6000 people might have registered themselves and supposing a gas agency is given in that area, then perhaps immediately those people who are there will be getting gas connections. It is true that in some big towns there is difficulty, but I may bring to the notice of the House that even in this year they are going fast with reference to opening new gas agency points as a result of which I am sure that we will be able to alleviate the grievance of the people to the extent possible and, as I said, this year we will be able to release 16 lakh gas connections.

The Hon. Member has also raised the question about the transfer of connections. The companies have been issued guidelines so that if the person in whose name the gas connection has been released dies or whatever it is, his heirs are given the gas connection if they apply.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : I believe they will not insist on Succession Certificate.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : No. I am sorry that...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He should not have asked for another connection already.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : No. The Hon. Member is very well aware, as an eminent lawyer, what difficulties one faces for the purpose of a Succession Certificate. So, we don't insist. The only thing is that the office would go and find out on the spot who is the heir in whose name it should be transferred.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He wants advocates to thrive by getting a Succession Certificate.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : It happens.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : If it has happened anywhere, I may say that will issue fresh instructions that they should not insist on the Succession Certificate for gas connection at least. For some good property, of course, we may take Succession Certificate but not for this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Whenever they get gas connection, they may give the number of children. Later on they can get connection

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : In most of the cases there is no nomination. I will consider this whether we could introduce this system. In the order of priority...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In the beginning itself they can give.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : It is a good suggestion. I will see that part of it.

When there is a case of transfer of officer, what we have done is, that we have issued instructions that he should surrender the gas connection at that place and he will be given a chit in lieu of surrender of connection. He can present that document at the place of his transfer and he will be given connection. We have issued order this year.

The Hon. Member has also asked about interest on deposits. We take deposit of Rs. 300/- for the cylinder of 14.2 kgs. We also take per pressure regulator Rs. 50/-. It makes a total of Rs. 350/-. It is true that no interest is paid on this deposit. Hon. Members would at least be indulgent enough, in a case like this because this goes to public sector and the money is used for purposes of developing bottling plant, etc. On Rs. 350/- the interest will be very negligible. But this goes to help the industry. Since this goes to public sector companies, therefore, the Hon. Members may not be pleased to take it otherwise if the interest is not paid which is highly negligible.

The Hon. Member has asked what is the exact money available with different compadys through deposits. That figure is not available with me. But I will write to the Hon. Member by getting this information so that the Hon. Member may know the amount with each company by way of deposit. I do not see any reason that it may not be disclosed in public interest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : But the money does not go to the agency. It goes to the company.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : It is deposited with the Company and not passed on to the distributor.

The Hon. Member has raised a very pertinent question with reference to allotment of agencies and the irregularities. It was said that in many cases quite a large amount was being passed on. Whenever complaints were received by me, I had been trying to investigate into them and I have put my vigilance cell for this purpose also. In very few cases, I must submit that it came to light that there was a possibility of the justification in the complaint. I may submit that wherever I found even a slight possibility of justification, I advised the companies to cancel the

agencies which were sought to be allotted to a particular party and either re-advertise the same or go ahead with the fresh selection. I have taken action. Of course, I would not like to go in each case into the details.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : आपने कुछ ऐसे केसिज पकड़े हैं ? यदि हां, तो कितने केसिज पकड़े हैं ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Of course, I may not have the details. For example, one of the Hon. Members, Shri Rahi, brought to my notice one or two very serious cases and I found truth in it and immediately I cancelled it. That is Bara Banki case. I am just giving the example. I am trying to see whether I have got the details so that I can give you.

I have some details which I will give to the Hon. Member about the cases in recent times. Very recently, selections made by the Oil companies have been set aside. For example, in Paschim Puri (Delhi), Sonapat, Bara Banki, Bhopal, Delhi (SKO/LDO agencies) Azamgarh etc. These were set aside because I found that there were some justifications in the complaints. (Interruptions) I am not sure of the exact number and I may not be in a position to give at this stage. But I will look into it. Another complaint is about Ghazipur and that is under investigation

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : गाजीपुर की बात मैं आपको बता रहा हूँ। वहाँ 5-6 इन्टरव्यू हुए। मैं आज आपको हाऊस में जानकारी दे रहा हूँ कि उसमें एक लाख रुपए से अधिक एक व्यक्ति ने घूस दी है। उसने पांच-छः नामों से फार्म भर दिया था और उसी के लोगों का इन्टरव्यू हुआ तथा उसी में से प्रायोरिटी लिस्ट बना ली जाएगी।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : जहाँ तक गाजीपुर की बात है मेरे ख्याल में 15 अप्रैल को ही इलाहाबाद में इन्टरव्यू हुए हैं। शायद आप उसी के लिए रेफर कर रहे हैं और मेरा अन्दाजा भी वही है।

On 15th April, the interviews were conducted at Allahabad and we started it. I will go into it. But I may bring to the notice of the Hon. Member that I doubt whether some officers have taken the money. I will get the details. But I may bring to the notice of the House that there is a committee headed by a retired judge. Therefore, when I have to try to rule out the possibility of corruption, as far as possible...

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: He is addressing the High Court judge.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is doing this as a former judge.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Hon Members are aware that a large number of complaints are coming to me from the public representatives, particularly the Members of Parliament make some allegations. I take it a little seriously because unless there is some basis, Hon. Members would not take it up with me.

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : आपने तो एलाटमेंट करने के लिए जज की कमेटी बना ली है। जब वहाँ से प्रायोरिटी लिस्ट आती है तो आप उस कमेटी को कह देंगे कि जो फर्स्ट है उसे पहले दे दो, उसके बाद जो सैकण्ड है उसे दे दो।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : ऐसा नहीं है। एजेन्सी के लिए जब एप्लीकेशन्स आती है तो डिपार्टमेंट चालीस लोगों की लिस्ट बना लेता है।

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : अगर चालीस लोगों ने आवेदन पत्र न दिया हो तो ?

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : जितने लोग आवेदन पत्र देते हैं, उनको बुलाया जाता है। उस कमेटी में तेल से संबंधित फिलहाल कोई आफिसर नहीं है। एक तो रिटायर्ड सीनियर आइ० ए० एस० आफिसर और दूसरे रिटायर्ड हाई कोर्ट जज हैं। वे ही निर्णय लेते हैं। उनका निर्णय मार्क्स के आधार पर होता है। जिनके सबसे ज्यादा मार्क्स होते हैं, उन्हीं को देते हैं। आफिसर से कोई भी सम्बन्ध नहीं रहता है। जैसा कि आपने कहा है, कि आफिसर्स घांघली करते हैं और जो सही केन्डीडेट होता है उसको नहीं मिलता, इस बात को मैं अवश्य देखूंगा।

श्री राजनाथ सोनकर शास्त्री : एक लड़का विनोद कुमार मुझसे मिला था। वह हर प्रकार से योग्य था, उसको इन्टरव्यू में बुलाया ही नहीं गया।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : दो-तीन दिन में इसकी जांच-पड़ताल करके आपको लिख दूंगा।

There is some mistake in my statement because now the information is all eligible candidates are interviewed by the Selection Board. Previously we were short-listing 40 persons from general category only and no shortlisting from the Social Objective Categories, that has been given up. Therefore, even if there are 100 persons who are eligible, all of them will be interviewed for that purpose. But I will still see why Shri Vinod Kumar has not been called for interview.

I will certainly look into it. Was he

eliminated because he was not eligible ? I will look into it.

Because of this only, as I said, we have appointed for the present two Committees headed by retired High Court Judges and I have taken care to see that a judge from the North and a Senior IAS Officer from the North who have nothing to do with the South have been put in the South. And the Judge from the South and IAS Officer from the South have been put in the North. That is how, I have managed and a few more selection boards I am constituting, at least two to three so that the work of granting the agencies gets accelerated. I only hope that with this process, the various complaints that are coming forth...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prospective agents need not bring a lawyer with them because you have appointed a judge to decide.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I may bring to your notice that I had to hit upon the retired judges because they will be fair for the purpose of granting the agencies. It is from that point of view I have requested the retired judges and I must say that I am very glad that they have accepted the job. It is purely administrative in nature. As I said I will increase it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can also issue some guidelines. As a suggestion I have to make, supposing five or six blocs are the same, are equal, a ballot can be taken, whoever gets it, gets it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Various guidelines have been given to them. For example, till last year, the position was that a person living in the State could apply for the agency anywhere in the State. Now I have restricted it to the district because many complaints were coming to me that a person from

Amritsar was applying far away in Bhatinda and he was getting the business carried out *beanmi*. I wanted to avoid it and I have confined it to the district itself. These guidelines I have issued and it is under these guidelines that they are working.

An Hon. Member has raised the question about the agencies for the Scheduled Castes, that the persons who were employing the Scheduled Castes have been taking undue advantage. The oil companies are making periodic checks. They have been directed that they should also inspect this type of agencies and wherever we had been finding that it is *benami* or anything of that type, action would certainly be taken and if any such thing is brought to the notice of either the company or me, we also take action on such matters.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Hon. Member has also referred to the Scheduled Caste agencies. For the purpose of figures, I have prepared it. I must submit that out of a total of 402 dealerships that were granted, 69 were of Scheduled Caste, 27 were of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI JAI PAL SINGH KASHYAP: What is the percentage ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The percentage comes to 24% and 24.74% for all type of agencies put together. But it is a little less than 25%. In the sense, as I said, it is 24%. I may bring to the notice of the Hon. House also that in recent times we are not allowing any dereservation; in the rarest of the rare cases alone, I am allowing dereservation. That order I have kept it unto myself and I have gone to the extent of saying-supposing there are no applicants, well, I said, 'Ask the Collector to name 3 or 4 persons who can run the agency and we can allot it to somebody, without going through the process.'

Otherwise it becomes difficult that the Scheduled Caste reservation has to be changed and that does not appear to be proper. By and large we are keeping the percentage. I can assure the House that I will not allow it to be reduced in any form whatsoever.

These are the broad points that were raised by the Members. I have tried to meet them. I will not go into further details. It is true that as the Hon. Member said, in answer to a question in the Lok Sabha, I have said that in different towns we have been giving different number of refills. There is no doubt in that and I presume that the gas agencies are a profitable proposition. Otherwise what the Hon. Member has alleged that people were passing off money, would not have been correct.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think the other members—3 or 4 members who have got questions to put, may kindly be brief as he has covered most of the points.

Prof. Ajit Kumar Mehta—I think you can put one question. Everything he has covered. Only question—no speech.

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने आजमगढ़ का नाम लेते हुए कहा कि वहां की एजेन्सी कैसल की गई है। यह बात उनके नालेज में है कि हाई कोर्ट में यह केस गया और वहां पर कहा गया कि माधुरी सिन्हा से यह प्रामिस किया गया था कि वह 60,000 रुपया दे, तो उनका नाम मेरिट लिस्ट में प्रथम कर दिया जाएगा। उसके अस्वीकार करने पर उसका नाम तीसरा कर दिया गया। तब मेरिट लिस्ट बनाई गई और नरेन्द्र पाठक को, जो मेरिट लिस्ट में पहला था, एजेन्सी दे

[प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता]

दी गई। वह मामला कोर्ट में गया। हाई कोर्ट के जजमेंट के बाद सरकार ने पहला नाम कैंसिल कर दिया और दूसरे नाम पर एजेन्सी दे दी गई। जब रिश्वत की बात सिद्ध हो गई, जब यह साबित हो गया कि वह लिस्ट उस आधार पर बनाई गई थी, तो पूरी लिस्ट कैंसिल कर देनी चाहिए थी, अथवा जो पार्टी हाई कोर्ट में गई, उसके क्लेम को कनसिडर करके गैस की एजेन्सी दी जानी चाहिए थी, लेकिन सरकार ने दूसरे नम्बर वाले को दे दिया।

हाई कोर्ट में जो मेरिट लिस्ट पेश की गई, उसमें तारीख 11-4-82 थी। उस दिन तक स्पॉट इन्स्पेक्शन नहीं हुआ था। वह 11-5-82 को हुआ था। जब यह बात सरकार के ध्यान में लाई गई, तो उसके किसी अफसर ने बताया कि यह तारीख 11-4-82 नहीं, बल्कि 11-7-82 है। 11-7-82 को रविवार था। क्या मंत्रालय रविवार को भी काम किया करता है? हमें इस मामले में फोर्जरी का आभास मिलता है और यह इस बात का परिचायक है कि एजेन्सी देने में लाखों रुपयों का आदान-प्रदान होता है। मंत्री महोदय से मेरा आग्रह है कि वह इस मामले की अच्छी तरह से जांच करवाएं।

नरेन्द्र पाठक की एजेन्सी कैंसिल कर के रीता अग्रवाल को दे दी गई है। वह आज तक आजमगढ़ में गोडाउन स्पेस की खोज कर रही है, जबकि नियम यह है कि अगर दो महीने तक काम मैटीरियलाइज न हो, तो एजेन्सी को कैंसिल कर दिया जाएगा। लेकिन रीता अग्रवाल आज तक आजमगढ़ में गोडाउन स्पेस खोज रही है, फिर भी उसका लाइ-

सेंस कैंसिल नहीं हुआ है। क्या मंत्री महोदय इसके लिए जिम्मेदार अफसरों के खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही करेंगे?

दूसरी बात यह है कि आप जानते ही हैं कि कश्मीर से लेकर मिजोरम तक जंगल कट रहे हैं। हिमालय के जंगल कटने की वजह से भूस्खलन हो रहा है और प्लेन्स में बाढ़ें आती हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में मैं जानना चाहता हूं क्या आप हिमालय रीजन में एल० पी० जी० के कनेक्शन देने की व्यवस्था करेंगे ताकि जंगलों का कटान रुक सके?

तीसरी बात यह है कि आज अखबारों में यह रिपोर्ट आई है कि रिफायनरीज से जो गैस निकल रही है उसको जलाया जा रहा है, उसको जलाना बन्द करके क्या आप इस बात को देखेंगे कि उसमें से एल० पी० जी० के लिए कितनी गैस निकल सकती है? ऐसा करने से निश्चित रूप से नेशनल वेस्टेज रहेगा इसलिए क्या इस पर भी आप ध्यान देंगे?

मुझे क्षमा करेंगे, मैं आपका उत्तर सुनने के लिए उपस्थित नहीं रह पाऊंगा क्योंकि मुझे प्लेन पकड़ना है।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I will say that in one minute. As regards the question of gas agency at Azamgarh which the Hon. Member raised—Shri Narendra Pathak—it is still under my consideration.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Again you have allotted to one Rita Agarwal.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The final decision as yet has not been taken. It is with me in the Ministry. I assure you that the points raised by you would

be taken into consideration before a decision is taken.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Already Shri Nihal Singh, an Hon. Member of the House has raised this point. So, I request you to take action against the officer responsible as to how is it that Shri Narendra Pathak which is completely a forged name had come in when nobody of this name was found in the whole of U.P.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I shall certainly do that. So far as the retail dealership for the petrol pump in Azamgarh is concerned, I have cancelled that. So far as gas agency is concerned, it is under consideration. The L.P.G. connection in the Himalayan region is a matter which will have to be taken up. This issue has not been so far taken up. As I said, I wanted to go to the towns with a population of 20,000 to 50,000 first and, gradually, perhaps, I shall take up this issue of gas connection in the Himalayan region.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prof. Mehta, the demand also must be there.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Not only the demand but even I find that taking the gas cylinders to these places is also a problem. The LPG gas is being extracted from the natural gas. The Hon. Member raised the question of flaring up of the gas. I have already answered in the House about the flaring up of the gas. There is no necessity again to repeat that answer.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since the Hon. Minister has taken charge of this Ministry, things have much improved. I should congratulate you for that. I would only ask two or three questions. The first question is with reference to the fixing of the indicator. In the year 1980, this very question was asked and

your predecessor on the floor of the House was pleased to say that very early some contrivance would be fixed to the cylinder. What happens is this. The Hon. Minister and you must have also the experience that if we call somebody for the dinner, the housewife, in the evening says that there is no gas; we are not in a position to get the gas because shops are closed. There is no indication as to when the gas would be exhausted. Also there is no indication as to whether the cylinder has been properly filled in. Instead of a weighing machine, I would request you to consider the priority of fixing an indicator or something like that or even a float like the one by which we get to know what is the petrol in a car. I would like to know since the assurance was given on the floor of the House some time in the year 1980-81, what progress has been made. Now, the very answer was given that we are having some talks with the Electronics Department and they are trying to give us something. We would like to know as to whether any progress has been made or not. Or is it only in the correspondence stage ? This is my first question.

With reference to giving of agencies, you have given us a detailed reply. I am thankful to you for the same. You have also said that some guidelines have been given. I do not want these guidelines. But, what I want to know is this. Is it possible for you to know that these agencies should not be given to these rich merchants who have already plenty of agencies in their pockets ?

19.00 hrs.

Now, my experience is that in my State wherever I have gone, not for purchasing gas, but for collecting information I found that agencies have been given to those persons who have plenty of other agencies. So, you may issue a guideline that if a person applies for an agency when he has got other agencies then the person

[Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar]

who does not have any agency will be given preference. There are categories like freedom fighters, harijans and disabled but I find such agencies are not granted to them. So, I would request you to consider this aspect also.

You said that there are complaints about distribution. As far as Maharashtra is concerned I would invite the attention of the Hon Minister to the fact that distribution system in Maharashtra is not good. It is not because there is no gas or there is want of cylinders but it is because of transport. As far as my constituency is concerned from Bombay to Chiplun your company pays Rs. 1,100/- to the truck owners while the other merchants pay Rs. 1600/-. Therefore, the truck operators are not willing to bring this particular commodity and, as such, there is dearth of gas. We have formed a sangh whereby we collect the money and pay to the truck operators. I would request you to see whether this can be revised so that there can be proper distribution of gas.

Sir, some six months back I had written a letter to Hon. Minister regarding agency at my place Ratnagiri. There is population of 60,000 but there is only one agency and he is not in a position to cope up with the demand. I have received the usual acknowledgement to my letter. I am waiting for the final reply. I am sure after having made a reference by me here you will inform me about it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, the Hon. Member has raised the issue with regard to the fixing of the indicator and the answer that was given in 1980. In fact, the Department did try certain devices but they proved to be inaccurate. Because of this inaccuracy again the Electronics Department has been requested so that they could have more research and evolve a level indi-

cator or something like that. Of course, there is delay but these are matters where researchers do take a little time.

The Hon. Member referred to the rich persons getting the agency. So far as this happens it is mostly in the open category cases. About scheduled castes and handicapped, in fact, I do not know even among scheduled castes also it is only sometimes the rich who take away the main cake.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : I am not on the point of rich but only saying that issue a directive in respect of those who already have other agencies.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I would like to bring it to the notice of the Hon. Member that family income limit has been fixed at Rs. 24,000 per year. Notwithstanding this informally I have discussed this issue with the committees and, I am sure, they will take care in this regard. It was difficult for me to issue a clear guideline. That is why we have fixed the limit on the income but nonetheless...

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR : But no sooner you will issue the guidelines there will be partitions in the family. I have experienced this.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I am aware that this type of things do occur. I can quote much worse case in my own State where sometime, I think it was 25th January, 1970 when the Congress Working Committee took a decision for the purpose of ceiling on land.

This law came into force some time in 1975. Meanwhile, there had been thousands and thousands of divorces that had taken place on paper.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER . Officially or non-officially?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Officially through the courts, but nonetheless living under the same roof, it was only for the purposes of saving the land. If you look at our ceiling legislation, I do not remember, whether it is Section 7(3) or 7(4), which has said that all the divorces that had taken place between 25th January 1970 till that law came into force would be deemed to be nullified for purposes of this legislation. One section even nullifies the adoptions also. People do manipulate these things and it is possible, as the Hon. Member said that this might lead to division of the families; I do not deny that.

But I have issued instructions and I am sure, the judges and the members who constitute the selection committee will take care to see that these agencies are allotted to really deserving people. When I say deserving, I mean that all the aspects, social, economic etc. will be taken into consideration. I have impressed upon them this, and have told them that the whole scheme is to further the concept of social justice. I have very specifically told this to them. It is for this reason that I had to personally speak to the Finance Minister that the moment the gas agency is allotted, and the person concerned applies to a bank for loan, they should immediately give the loan to him and we, as a company, are prepared to stand guarantee, and we would deduct that amount from the commission and pay it directly to the bank. In view of this, I am sure, these aspects will be taken care of.

The Hon. Member has particularly referred about the difficulties in his constituency with reference to the transport. I will certainly look into that. I was not aware of it. Hon. Member has written to me that one

more point should be opened in Ratnagiri. I have already directed for the survey and I am sure, we will be able to get the report, but notwithstanding that I assure the Hon. Member that whether survey or no survey, I will certainly open another point in Ratnagiri. It has been voiced in the Parliament and it comes from a responsible Member, and I will, therefore, advise one of the companies to open up one more point and see what could be done in the matter.

श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप (आंवला) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं एक मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। गैस खाना बनाने के लिये इस्तेमाल होती है, लेकिन बहुत खर्चीली पड़ती है। क्या इस तरह की कोई व्यवस्था की जा रही है, सूर्य के द्वारा या दूसरी शक्ति से, कि उसका कोई आल्टरनेटिव तैयार हो सके जो सस्ता हो? हम ऐसी कोई चीज तैयार करें जो सस्ती पड़े।

गैस के चूल्हे बगैरह हमें एजेंसी से लेने पड़ते हैं जो बहुत महंगे पड़ते हैं। उसको कैसे सस्ता किया जाय ताकि आम आदमी के लिए गैस लेना सुविधाजनक हो सके? गैस लेने के लिए एक ही बार में हजारों रुपया देना किसी भी व्यक्ति के लिए बड़ा दिक्कत-तलब होता है। क्या सरकार इसके लिए कोई व्यवस्था करेगी?

गैस सिलेण्डर पर जो सील लगाई जाती है, उसकी तरफ मैं आपका ध्यान विशेष रूप से दिलाना चाहता हूँ। सिलेण्डर पर कागज की एक स्लिप लगी होती है जो गोंद से सिलेण्डर पर चिपका दी जाती है तथा जिस का सिलेण्डर की गैस से कोई वास्ता नहीं होता है, उसके बिना हटाये भी सिलेण्डर में से गैस निकाली जा सकती है। इस तरह की शिकायतें

[श्री जयपाल सिंह कश्यप]

हमारे पास आई हैं तथा बहुत से अखबारों में भी निकली हैं कि गैस एजेंसी से सिलेण्डर चलता है, किसी होटल को दे दिया जाता है, एक-दो दिन वहां इस्तेमाल होने के बाद उसको कन्ज्यूमर के पास पहुंचा दिया जाता है। क्या आप इसके बारे में कोई सख्ती करेंगे ?

गैस सिलेण्डर के फटने से बहुत-सी मौतें होती हैं। सिलेण्डर में जो डिफेक्ट्स हैं उनको दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या व्यवस्था करेगी ?

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर (मोतीहारी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जब से यह विभाग मंत्री जी के पास आया है, इन्होंने बहुत सुधार किया है और इसके लिए ये बधाई के पात्र हैं। मैं एक बात यह कहना चाहूंगा कि मेरा डिस्ट्रिक्ट बैकवर्ड डिस्ट्रिक्ट है और वहां की 19 लाख की आबादी है।

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This Half-an-Hour discussion is very useful because everybody gets an agency for his constituency.

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर : वहां पर एक गैस की एजेंसी है। ईस्ट चम्पारन डिस्ट्रिक्ट इन बिहार की मैं बात कर रहा हूं। वहां की डिमान्ड बढ़ती जा रही है और गैस के लिए एक ही एजेंसी है, जो उस डिमान्ड को कोप-अप नहीं कर रही है। क्या आप इस बात पर फिर से विचार करने जा रहे हैं ? ईस्ट चम्पारन डिस्ट्रिक्ट में कोई दूसरी गैस एजेंसी देंगे ताकि लोगों की बढ़ती हुई मांग की पूर्ति की जा सके।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir,

having conceded in the case of Ratnagiri, it is difficult for me to say 'no'. I think I must concede the point of the Hon. Member. I will ask the company to look into it. I will write separately the Hon. Member. He says 19 lakhs population is there and there is only one agency. It may be in the entire district. What is the population of the Champaran town ?

श्री कमला मिश्र मधुकर : 8 टाउन्स हैं और एक ही टाउन हेडक्वार्टर में एक एजेंसी है।

श्री पी० शिव शंकर : मैं देख लूंगा कि वहाँ पर टाउन्स की क्या दशा है और पता लगा कर आपको लेटर 8 दिन के अन्दर लिखूंगा। Sir, the Hon. Member, Shri Kashyap has raised various valid points. One of the points is with reference to the alternate source. Sir, in the Department of non-conventional Sources of Energy, we are trying to develop various ways and means for the purpose of using the Sun rays for cooking. Some development has already taken place.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Cowdung is also being used.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Not only cowdung, but there is some expression of ultra Sun rays absorbed for the purpose of heat. Various resources are being developed and I might submit it may take a little more time for the purpose of developing them commercially on a large scale. But None-the-less research activities are being taken up fast and I am sure that we will be able to find some alternative to LPG for cooking purposes.

Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a question about the cost of Chullas. I know various chullas cost between

Rs. 400 approximately and Rs. 1200 approximately. There is a constant research going on with reference to the proper chullas. We are also trying to see that people get good chullas at a lesser cost. Various irregularities with reference to the sale of chullas were also brought to my notice. We have been trying to alleviate the grievances of the people to the extent possible in this regard. I will certainly see to it that we develop Chullas of a standard nature on the basis of the research so that they are less costlier and more effective also.

The Hon. Member has complained about seals on the cylinders. I will look into it as to how best we can fix up proper seal.

Sir, I am sorry that in many a case accidents have taken place at the consumer level because of the negligence or because of the defects in fixing up the regulator or the valve at the time of fixing up the seals, because of which the leakages occur. All these complaints have come to our notice. We have taken care to see that the consumers are properly educated. For that purpose we are trying to get the slides exhibited in the cinemas and TV. On the 17th April itself, we had a show on the T.V. A film was also shown to people as to how best to fix up the cylinder and use

it. These aspects are also taken into consideration. Advertisements are also effected in the newspapers. So, various steps are being taken for the purpose of educating the people to avoid accidents.

The Hon. Member has also raised the question, viz. that these cylinders are given to the hotels and then supplied to the parties. This complaint has been received constantly. I have dealt with the issue of less quantity of LPG in the cylinder. We are strengthening our vigilance also, for the purpose of having random checks not only at the distributor's level, but also at the level of the consumers. As and when such complaints are reported to the companies, they have been taking necessary action.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned, to meet again on Tuesday, the 26th April 1983 at 11 a.m.

19.17 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
April 26, 1983/Vaisakha 6,
1905 (Saka)*

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