

and providing relief. Till today the Central Government have provided assistance to the tune of Rs 5 crores. As regards the question asked by the hon. Member, I have no information as to how much assistance the State Government have sought. I shall collect this information and pass it on to the hon. Member.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA.** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has informed us that the Central Government spent Rs 5 crores, although it was the worst disaster. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh spent Rs. 10 crores whereas the Central Government provided only Rs. 5 crores. The State Government spent the money from their own resources by withholding all developmental works. I want to know whether the request of the State Government seeking another sum of Rs. 5 crores will be met to complete the relief works which are still going on ?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** Sir it is very difficult to say anything at this stage, as I do not have the required information. A decision on the amount of assistance required to be given will be taken in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries. Therefore, it is very difficult for me to say at this stage how much amount the Central Government can give.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that the suits for compensation have been filed in American courts. I would like to ask whether we have to knock at the door of American courts for securing compensation for the poor people of the country who died in this accident. Do we not have any provision to set up a special court in India itself to get justice or compensation for the poor people ? The Union Carbide has 2 or 3 companies at the place where the accident occurred. That property can be seized and compensation given to the victims and if the judiciary given any judgement in this regard, recovery thereof can be made. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much money is likely to be spent on filing a case in America in pursuance of this decision ?

**SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL :** Sir, due consideration was given to the question of filing compensation suit whether at home or in America and it was decided that the suit be filed in a U.S. court, because it was in the interest of those who were killed or were affected in the Bhopal tragedy that the cases be filed there. Consultations were held with the legal advisers in this connection and only after that the Government of India had taken a decision in this regard because the Head office of the company is in U.S.A. and the company which had about 50.9 per cent shares in it is based there. If we file suits here and get a decree, we shall have to go to American courts to get the decree executed, keeping all these aspects in view, the Government decided to file a case in a U. S. Court.

[*English*]

#### **Factory Manufacturing L.P.G. Cylinders**

**\*350. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the factories manufacturing LPG cylinders are not running to their full capacity ;

(b) the reasons for under-production ;

(c) whether the low intake by oil companies is one of the reasons; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to stop issuing fresh licences ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM : (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :**

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major reasons for under utilisation of manufacturing capacity have been problems of industrial relations and in power supplies ; besides insufficient orders. The present annual production is more than adequate for the requirements of the oil companies.

(d) An industrial unit for manufacture of LPG cylinders does not require a licence under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :** I would like to know the number of companies which are producing gas cylinders and their total production during the last year.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** There are 68 companies according to our information that are producing gas cylinders and the anticipated production for 1984-85 is 50 lakh cylinders.

**SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL.** When the production is adequate and gas is also available why are you not able to give gas connections to the needy persons ?

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Sir, the production of gas cylinders is more than what we require but the availability of LPG is not so much that we can give connections to all of them. Then there is the problem of bottling capacity and also other infrastructure facilities like distribution network, rail-road transport, etc. In view of these reasons we are not able to supply gas to all the needy persons and fulfil their needs.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI VISHNU MODI :** I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether orders in excess of their capacity have been placed with some factories and, in case of some other factories, cylinders are being purchased at a higher price whereas newly set up factories are being given orders at lower rates, and whether orders have been placed with such factories as have not been able to utilise their production capacity during the last 4 years? Will all these things be given consideration and do Government propose to cancel the order in respect of the factories to which orders in excess of their capacity have been given? Have imports been made in spite of adequate capacity in India and would further imports be stopped?

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :** Many questions have been clipped in a single question. What I have been asked to say is how much capacity has been registered in the country and why it was registered and why imports were allowed. I would like to state that the registration is done by the D.G.T.D. and since it is a non-sche-

duled industry, its registration is automatic. We have no control over it at any point and that is why about 600 units have been registered and 68 units out of them are such as have already started production or are likely to start production and their total production capacity is 12 crore cylinders. Since their production capacity is more and our requirement is 50 lakh cylinders, therefore, the new industries which have entered into production are not getting orders due to which they are suffering a loss. It is a fact that we imported 8 lakh cylinders, but at the time of taking this decision, we neither had this much of production nor the capacity. As the new programme of issuing 15 to 16 lakh new L. P. G. connections every year had been launched, it was thought people at that time that there was no other way out to meet this requirement than to import the cylinders. Therefore, 8 lakh cylinders were imported. This is also correct that orders for three years were placed with those who were in this industry at that time and it was done with a view to encouraging production. So, due to the placing of orders for three years, coupled with the import of cylinders, the new people entering the market are facing difficulties because they are not getting orders. The Ministry is making efforts so that they may also get some orders.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Question hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

### Cooperation in Pharmaceuticals between India and Czechoslovakia

\*343. **SHRI RAMAKRISHNA MORE :** Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of the sub-Group of experts for cooperation in pharmaceuticals between India and Czechoslovakia was held in Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY