

ted buildings. The construction of fifteen Post Office buildings are going on. In view of this, may I know from the hon. Minister the total amount of rent paid for the post offices buildings in Orissa? In view of the backwardness of the State, I want to know whether more number of post office buildings will be constructed on a priority basis in the Sixth Plan period.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: I am glad to inform the hon. Members that Orissa happens to be one of the States where a large number of buildings have come up on a departmental basis. The total number of departmental post offices that we have in the country is 22,305 of which, 686 are head post offices. Out of these 22,305, Government buildings are only 2,725 in the entire country. Out of 686 head post offices, the departmental buildings are only 510. In Orissa, Sir, out of 35 head post offices, twenty six are under departmental buildings. In the other areas also, the position has been given. Out of 947 other post offices, sixty seven are under departmental post offices. The constructions are well under way. This compares much more favourably when you think that out of 22,305 total in the whole of the country, only 2,727 are under departmental buildings. That is why I said that Orissa had been unduly favourably treated. I do not want to reverse the process. That undue treatment will continue.

श्री कृष्ण दत्त युलतानपुरी : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन्होंने यह कहा है कि छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह डाक घरों के भवन निर्माण करने जा रहे हैं, इसलिए किन-किन स्टेट्स में कितनी-कितनी धनराशि रखी गई है और क्या हिमाचल प्रदेश में भी डाक घरों के निर्माण के लिए पैसा दे रहे हैं ?

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: Sir, I want notice on this particular question.

However, I would like to point out that the total amount allotted in the Sixth Five-year Plan is Rs. 140 crores. Out of this Rs. 68 crores will be for Post Offices and other Establishments. Rs. 72 crores will be for the Staff quarters. Certain proportion will go to every State.

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the importance of the North Eastern region of our country, particularly Purnea, Kishanganj districts and parts of the districts of North Bengal, I wish to point out that the same old buildings are continuing, which I saw in my School days. These very same buildings are still continuing. Near about 34 years have passed and yet these old buildings are still continuing.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want them to be demolished?

SHRI JAMILUR RAHMAN: And I see from the Statement of the hon. Minister that Rs. 140 crore is provided for the buildings. Now, Sir, keeping in view the increased number of the population to be covered and the needs of the people at large, and also Sir, keeping in view the position as stated by me, will the hon. Minister be able to tell us how many head post office buildings at the H.Q. as well as sub-divisional areas have been taken up? I also want to know how many district Headquarters have been taken up in North Bengal in this regard.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN: The answer is the same. I want separate notice on this question.

Cooking Gas Facility in Haryana

*231. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) in how many towns of the State of Haryana, cooking gas facility has been provided till now; and

(b) in how many towns the facility will be provided during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The cooking gas (Liquified Petroleum Gas) facility has been provided in ten towns of Haryana.

(b) Eight more towns are expected to be provided with this facility during the current year.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: I want to know the names of the Towns which have already been provided with these Gas connections and also the names of the Towns which are yet to be provided with Gas facilities. I also want to know the total number of gas connections which have been given and the total number of applications which have been pending for new gas connections. This is my supplementary question, Sir.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Presently, these cooking gas facilities are available in ten Towns of Haryana. They are as follows:—

Ambala
Bahadurgarh
Faridabad
Gurgaon
Hissar
Karnal
Panipat
Rohtak
Sonipat
Yamuna Nagar

In addition, 8 more Towns are expected to be provided with the Cooking Gas facility and Gas connections. They are as follows:

Bhiwani
Ballabgarh

Jagadhri

Jind

Kurukshetra

Narnaul

Thaneswar

Sirsa

SHRI CHIRANJIT SHARMA: The hon. Minister's reply is not complete, Sir. I asked about the Number of connections given and the number of applications pending. This is the second part of my question. He has not given answer to that.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: So far as connections given and number of applications pending are concerned, I am sorry, I do not have that information with me just at the moment. I can collect and I can furnish the information to the hon. Member.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Kindly state the facts regarding the criteria which are being adopted for giving LPG connections. What are the grounds or reasons which lead them to conclude that such and such an applicant is a genuine person to whom gas connection could be given? And, Sir, who is the competent authority to decide this question of allotment of dealership for distribution of LPG? I think that my impression is not wrong. Is it not a fact that the entire power in this regard is given to the bureaucrats, to the officers in the Department, who turn a deaf ear to the representatives of the people?

Thirdly, I would like to know whether freedom fighters, political sufferers, handicapped persons and war widows are given any preference in the allotment of dealership.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: For allotting agency for the distribution of LPG, new guidelines have

been fixed by the Ministry. They are:

25 per cent for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

10 per cent for unemployed Engineering Graduates;

10 per cent for unemployed Graduates;

15 per cent for physically handicapped persons, Defence personnel disabled in War and War widows;

10 per cent for outstanding social workers, freedom fighters;

and the balance 30 per cent is to be awarded on commercial considerations.

So far as the award of dealership is concerned, it is left to the Company and the Ministry has issued directions to the companies that they should appoint a Selection Committee with the representative of the Ministry in each Committee and wherever the dealership is reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the representatives of the State Government concerned are also there on the Committee. So, this Committee takes into consideration all these factors and they receive the application, interview the candidates and on merits they select the candidates.

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या यह बात सच है कि सरकारी नियम के अनुसार खाना पकाने की गैस की एजन्सी स्थानीय लोगों को दी जाती है ? यदि यह बात सच बात है तो क्या यह भी सच है कि एक जिले में दूसरे जिले के लोगों को एजन्सी दी जाती है ? यदि ऐसी बात है तो नियम का उल्लंघन क्यों किया जाता है ?

श्री बीरेन्द्र पाटिल : मैंने अभी बतलाया है कि नियम क्या है, रिजर्वेशन कैसे दिया गया है

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जिन को एजन्सी दी जाती है, ये उन की बात कर रहे हैं ।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : मैंने शेड्यूल्ड कास्ट्स और शेड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्स के रिजर्वेशन की बात नहीं कही है । मैंने जैनरल कहा है—एक जिले के आदमी को दूसरे जिले में एजन्सी देते हैं, लोकल को नहीं देते हैं ।

श्री बीरेन्द्र पाटिल : माननीय सदस्य का यह कहना कि एक जिले के एप्लीकेण्ट को अगर दूसरे जिले में एप्लीकेशन देता है तो उन को डीनरशिप या एजन्सी दी गई है—मुझे ऐसा मालूम नहीं है । मुझे यह भी मालूम नहीं है कि एक जिले का एप्लीकेण्ट अगर दूसरे जिले में एप्लीकेशन देता है तो वह डिस्क्वालिफिकेशन होता है या नहीं होता है । ऐसी कोई मिसाल आपके पास है तो मेरी नालिज में लाइये, मैं उस को देख सकता हूँ ।

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has been kind enough to read out the guidelines. They have been evolved for the purpose of allotting dealership of LPG. In view of the fact that the Government has often been and repeatedly been assuring that the welfare of the minorities would be taken care of, will the Government assure this House that the applicants from minority community, specially Muslims will receive proper consideration at the hands of the Government in so far as the appointment of dealership of LPG is concerned?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is out of context. This question does not concern the point raised by you.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Am I to understand that the hon. Minister is not prepared to say any-

thing on this? Since the guidelines have been evolved in general, I have put a general question.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: I have already read out the guidelines and indicated the percentage fixed for different categories. It is very clear from the guidelines that I have read out that there is no reservation for minorities. There is a reservation of 30 per cent on commercial considerations. In this thirty per cent, if there are suitable applicants from the minorities, certainly they will be considered on merits.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Is the Minister aware that in Bombay if you pay Rs. 3000/- as a sort of bribe....

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this question.

Marketing of poisonous pesticides and antibiotics

*232 **SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign manufacturers are dumping hazardous and domestically banned goods in the Third World countries and the poor countries are being poisoned;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poisonous pesticides and antibiotics are being marketed in developing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). There have been reports that certain pesticides and antibiotics whose use is banned in developed countries are exported to Third World countries.

As far as pesticides are concerned, their use and manufacture in and im-

port into India are regulated under the Insecticides Act. Before allowing the use of pesticides, the Registration Committee set up under the Act, takes into account all the relevant aspects such as safety, toxicity etc., with reference to Indian conditions. Pesticides which are not approved for use in India by the Registration Committee, are not allowed to be imported.

Similarly, as far as Antibiotics are concerned, their use and import in India is regulated by the Drugs Controller, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. No drug which has not been cleared by the Drugs Controller can be imported into India.

श्री हीरालाल पारमर : मेरे पूरक प्रश्न नहीं हैं ।

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: The hon. Minister has said that there is some sort of control with regard to the import of such pesticides etc. According to the newspaper reports, we find that such pesticides and antibiotics which are banned in the developed countries, find their way in India. How does it happen, and how does it escape the attention of the concerned authorities? If it does not escape the attention of the controlling authorities, how and why the drugs which are forbidden in the developed countries are available in India and are allowed to be sold?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : According to the newspaper reports, two pesticides, namely Phosvel and DECP have got harmful effect and these have been banned in USA. So far as our country is concerned, the import of these categories is not permitted. If the hon. Member mention any instance of a particular pesticide etc., I would be able to give a reply.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY : The other day it came in the newspapers that a very famous medical practitioner**.....

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.