SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I have taken note of it.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Thank you very much.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I would like to ask a question in the light of what the hon. Minister has said, earlier. He has pleaded his inability to do anything in the matter, because of the present legal position. I know that. Fortunately alongwith Company Affairs, he is also in charge of Law and Justice. That is why, I would like to ask a specific question. Is it not a fact that certain malpractices regarding sickness of the industry, manipulated sickness of the industry, are also prevalent, in spite of the legal provisions at present? For instance, is it not a fact that certain companies and factories. when they want diversification of their funds, the depreciation funds, for some other ventures and in the process they know probably because of lack of replacement of the machinery, which is likely to wear out, the machinery is likely to become sick, the original unit is likely to become sick, they rely on the fact that when their original unit becomes sick, the Government will take over. It will not be merely nationalisation, but it will be hospitalisation. They will see that the machinery is improved, the Government finances will be spent, and the patient is improved honourably he will be sent to the original house, the big house, and they will be told that "You have recouped your health; you can go back". So, this is a disincentive to see that the original industry is not allowed to become sick. For this, the remedy would be to re-examine the original law and see to it that this depreciation allowance is not allowed to be utilised for diversification. Thus the original industry should not be allowed to be sick and rely only on the Government. You examine this and see that the necessary amendments are made, if need be.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I have already given an answer to that. We will keep it in view.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: I

am a Member of the Tea Board. Tea Board, has given a proposal for creating a fund, out of the depreciation fund, for investing the money in fixed deposit which will be free of income-tax. It has been accepted by the Commerce Ministry but the Law Ministry and the finance Ministry have turned it down. May I know whether such proposals will be considered, as it is the view of this House as otherwise the money will be siphoned out for some other purposes? I know something about this, because I have studied this in the U.K. From what you say, it appears that you are not aware of the facts.

SHRI JAGAN NATH KAUSHAL: I am obliged to my friend, when he says that he is an expert in the matter. I will try to take advantage of his expert knowledge. He can write to me about his experience. But I want to mention only one fact. It so happens that the depreciation funds are at the disposal of the companies and if they invest that money in fixed deposit, as my friend was saying, later on when the company needs money, then they will have to go for external borrowings which may be at a much higher rate of interest. So, as I said, this matter needs re-examination, but to say that this is the only reason why the companies are getting sick, etc., etc., will not be very correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ghulam Rasool Kochack—Absent.

Shri Nihal Singh—Absent.

Shri Ramjibhai Mavani.—Absent.

Shrimati Madhuri Singh.

Non-availability of L.P.G. Cylinders

*853. SHRIMATI MADHURY SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no shortage of liquified petroleum gas but the non-availability of cylinders has limited the number of domestic consumers;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) steps proposed to improve the situation?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय के पैट्रोलियम विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र) : (क) से (ग) जी, नहीं। वर्ष के दौरान उपलब्ध होने वाली प्रत्याशित तरलीकृत पेट्रोलियम गैस के वितरण के लिए सिलेन्डरों, दबाव रेगूलेटरों वाल्वों इत्यादि को प्राप्त करने के लिए तेल कम्पनियों ने प्रबन्ध किए हैं।

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह : मान्यवर, मैं मंत्री जी के उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं हूं क्यों कि उन्होंने जो यह बात कही है कि स्रायल कम्पनियां इस कमी को पूरा कर देंगीं, यह केवल आइवासन ही है या वास्तव में कमी दूर हो जाएगी, मैं यह जानना चाहती हूं ?

श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र : यह कौरा ग्राव्वा-सन नहीं है। कमी को पूरा करते जाते हैं। भरे हुए सिलेन्डर देते हैं और खाली लेते हैं। कभी ऐसा नहीं होता है कि किसी के घर का चूल्हाबन्द हुम्राहो।

श्रीमती माधुरी सिंह ः सिलेन्डर ग्रौर प्रैसर रैग्लेटर की कमी है, तो फिर सरकार घनी आबादी वाले महा-नगरों में गैस कनैक्शन पाइप द्वारा उपभोक्ताओं को देने के बारे में क्या सोच रही है श्रीर श्रभी तक किन-किन नगरों में पाइप लाइन द्वारा गैस कनेक्शन दिये गये हैं। निकट भविष्य में यदि पाइप लाइनों द्वारा उपभोक्ताश्रों को गैस-कनेक्शन दिये जाएगें, तो इससे दो लाभ ै होंगे। जो सिलेन्डर और रैगूलेटर खाली होगें, उनका उपयोग छोटे शहरों में किया जा सकेगा और सिलेन्डर फटने से जो दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं, उनसे भी बचा जा सकेगा ?

श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र : जहां तक दुर्घ-टनाग्रों का सवाल है, वे दुर्घटनाएं खाना बनाने वालों की गलती से होती हैं ज्यादातर...

श्रंध्यक्ष महोदय: श्राप का सुभाव यह तो नहीं है कि खाना बनाना ही बन्द कर दिया जाए।

श्री गार्गी शंकर मिश्र : श्रीर पाइप द्वारा गैस वितरित करने की जो बात है बहुत पहले करीब 100 साल पहले से बम्बई में प्रयास किया गया था जो चल रहा है लेकिन वह इतनी पुरानी हो गई है कि उसको टेक-श्रोवर करके श्रौर फिर से एक कम्पनी बनाकर, जिसमें गवर्नमेंट ग्राफ इन्डिया, महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ग्रौर बम्बई कारपोरेशन सम्मिलित हो, इसको किया जाए, इस कोशिश में हम हैं।

प्रो० निर्मला कुमारी शक्तावत : इस पर एक सप्लीमेंटरी मेरी है।

श्रध्यक्ष महोदय : श्राप तो पहले एक सप्लीमेंटरी पूछ चुकी हैं।

प्रो० निर्मला कुमारी शक्तावत : यह तो गैस-कनेक्शन के बारे में है, यह क्वेश्चन है।

श्रध्यक्ष महोदय : नौ, नौ । वन सपली-मेंटरी इज एनफ फार ए डे।

Environmental pollution in Dhanbad and Jharia

SHRI SHUSHIL BHATTA-CHARYA: Will the Minister of ENER-GY be pleased to State:

(a) whether the decision of Coal India authorities to open more and more open cast mines has led to environmental pol-