

appeared in the 'Economic Times' dated the 1st November, 1996 under the caption "Illegal diversion of LPG on the rise;"

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that illegal diversion of LPG cylinders has been on the increase, with the connivance of dealers;

(c) if so, the action taken against the persons involved, including the dealers; and

(d) the steps taken to check illegal diversion and ensure timely supply of LPG cylinders to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Oil Marketing Companies have detected some instances of diversion of LPG and supply of underweight cylinders to the customers.

(c) Action against distributors for diversion of LPG to non-domestic purpose is taken as per provisions of Revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

(d) Checks are continuously made to detect and counter diversion of domestic LPG cylinders. In established cases suitable action under the marketing discipline guidelines, which have been made more stringent recently, as well as under the LPG Control Order is taken. Oil Companies occasionally conduct raids on unauthorised users and confiscate the cylinders, etc., and initiate action under the LPG Control Order. Action such as imposition of fine, warning, suspension

and even termination is taken against errant distributors.

Desert Development Programme in Gujarat

*211. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have appraised the progress made by DDP in the State;

(d) if so, the outcome of such appraisal; and

(e) what steps are being contemplated by Government to make DDP a success in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Desert Development Programme (DDP) in Gujarat is under implementation in 47 blocks of 6 districts. 3 districts; namely, Banaskantha, Mehsana and Kutch are situated in hot sandy arid area and remaining 3 districts; namely, Jamnagar, Rajkot and Surendranagar in hot arid area.

From 1.4.1995, area development under this programme is being taken up on watershed basis. A watershed project of about 500 hectares should be planned and developed in four years with effective involvement of local people. The number of watershed projects targetted to be developed, total allocation, Central share of allocation and Central releases in 1995-96 and 1996-97 are as under:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Area	No. of targetted Projects	1995-96			1996-97		
		Total allo- cation	Central share of allo- cation	Central releases	Total allo- cation	Central share of allo- cation	Central releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hot Arid Area	157	883.00	662.00	660.68	883.00	662.00	144.90
Hot Sandy Arid Area	188	766.00	766.00	766.00	766.00	766.00	156.25
TOTAL:	345	1649.00	1428.00	1426.68	1649.00	1428.00	301.15

In addition, an amount of Rs. 247.50 lakhs was released in 1995-96 for taking up 66 additional projects in hot sandy arid area.

An amount of Rs. 184.60 lakhs was released for completion of on-going works started prior to 1995-96.

(c) to (e) No appraisal of the programme was made in Gujarat separately. The programme in the country including Gujarat was evaluated by Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission and subsequently reviewed comprehensively in 1994 by a Technical Committee on DPAP and DDP under the Chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao, Ex-Member Planning Commission. The Committee in its report submitted in 1994, observed that the programme had created good impact in the areas treated. The over all impact was however not encouraging as the watershed approach for area development was adopted only at few places, inadequate allocation was thinly spread over vast areas, local people were not involved in planning and implementation of the programme, wide range of activities which were neither properly integrated nor necessarily related to the objectives of the programme were undertaken, officers and field functionaries involved in planning

and implementation of programme were not properly trained and there was no proper arrangement for maintenance of assets created under the programme.

Based on the recommendations of the Technical Committee, Guidelines for Watershed Development were issued in October, 1994 and made effective from 1.4.1995, The strategy outlined in the guidelines for successful implementation of the programme is as follows:—

- (i) area development should be taken up only on watershed basis;
- (ii) 50% of the allocation under Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) should be utilised on watershed development;
- (iii) adequate institutional arrangements should be made at the Centre, State, District and Project Implementation Agency (PIA) and Watershed levels to ensure effective involvement of local people, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations in the planning and development of watershed projects;
- (iv) works and activities within a Watershed project should be decided by the local people in

consultation with Project Implementation agency; and

- (v) training of officers, field functionaries and local people should be conducted on a continuous basis.

Indira Awas Yojana in Assam

*212. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojana for Assam for the year 1995-96;

(b) whether the entire sanctioned amount has been utilised for construction of houses for the deserving people;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what amount was spent for construction of each such house?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRAN NAIDU): (a) For the year 1995-96, under Indira Awas Yojana, an amount of Rs. 2656.32 lakhs was sanctioned by Government of India and inclusive of States matching share of Rs. 664.08 lakhs, the total fund released under the scheme was Rs. 3320.40 lakhs.

(b) As per the report of the State Government of Assam, the total expenditure for the year 1995-96 was Rs. 3381.70 lakhs against the total release of Rs. 3320.40 lakhs.

(c) and (d) During 1995-96, under Indira Awas Yojana a total of 24871 houses were constructed out of which, 18009 houses were for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 6862 houses for non-SC/ST people living below the poverty line. Apart from this, 818 houses were reported to be under progress. The average unit cost of construction was about Rs. 13,600.

Cryogenic Rocket Engine

*213. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first indigenously built cryogenic rocket engine has been test fired successfully;

(b) if so, when and the details of the test results and the main features of the engine; and

(c) the plans of the follow-up action for its use in the space-crafts development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a part of the indigenous development, a subscale cryogenic pressure fed engine with a rated thrust of one tonne in vacuum has been developed and tested under sea level conditions successfully.

A series of experiments with increasing complexity, of which the final test was on September 26, 1996 were conducted in order to understand the basic principle of cryogenic engine, in a phased manner. Whereas the initial tests were conducted with gaseous Hydrogen and gaseous Oxygen, the final tests were conducted with liquid Hydrogen and liquid Oxygen as needed for an operational engine. With this test, the series on subscale programme have been concluded after meeting all the objectives envisaged.

(c) The inputs from these tests form the engineering data base useful for development of a cryogenic stage of 7.5 tonne thrust rating for use in GSLV.

Evaluation of IREP in Maharashtra

*214. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: