

Committee on Drug Prices Equalisation Account;

(b) if so, what are the terms of reference and who are the members of the Committee;

(c) whether it is a fact that all issues regarding set offs on account of samples and Government sales have already been decided by Ministry of Law in the years 1985 and 1986 and by the High Court in the case of Gentamycin;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry neither worked out the amount due nor even collected the date from the drug companies which overcharged the public;

(e) whether it is a fact that by setting up of the Committee there would be delay in the recovery; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. NAMGYAL) : (a) to (f) The Government has constituted a Group which after, going through the representations received by the Government from various drug companies or Drug Industry Associations would make suggestions to the Government in order to determine a policy which could be uniformly applied in connection with the claims against various manufacturing companies arising under para 7(2) of DPCO, 1979.

The opinion of the Ministry of Law in regard to set off etc. would be taken into consideration by the Government while taking the final decision on the recommendations of the Group. The final judgement of the Delhi High Court in respect of the case filed by M/s. Fulford (India) Ltd. is still awaited.

Demand and production of LPG

658. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total annual requirement of LPG in the country, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the annual production of LPG in our country and what steps are being taken to meet the requirement;

(c) whether the **ONGC propose** to set up LPG plants in Gujarat and Assam; and

(d) whether there is also a proposal pending with Government to have a LPG plant at Cauveri basin in Tamil Nadu and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) : (a) During 1989-90, the demand of LPG in the country (including Tamil-Nadu) and Tamil Nadu is estimated at 2.11 million tonnes and 0.19 million tonnes respectively.

(b) During 1989-90, the production of 'LPG' in the country is estimated at 1.83 million tonnes; the deficit/shortfall is planned to be met by imports.:

(c) No new proposal in this regard has been received by the Government.

(d) Proposals have been received for production of around 18,000 tonnes of LPG per annum from the Natural Gas that would be available in Cauveri Basin.

Setting up of oil refinery at Thanjavur

659. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : Will the Minister