(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has decided to take steps for setting up of a new major port each in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. Steps have been initiated to get Government approval for both these ports. Development of minor ports comes under the purview of Maritime State Governments.

(e) and (f) Most of the capacity augmentation at all the major ports is taken up with private participation under the Private-Public-Partnership (PPP) mode.

Access to quality palliative care services

*65. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that less than 2 per cent of the country's population has access to palliative care;

(b)   if so, the response of Government in this regard;

(c)   whether Government is taking steps to provide adequate facilities for access to quality palliative care services;

(d)   if so, the details thereof; and

(e)   if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No data is maintained centrally regarding the number of persons requiring palliative care or on access to palliative care. The exact number of Palliative care centres in the country is also not available. Palliative care is given to alleviate symptoms *e.g.* swelling, bleeding, pain etc. especially in advance stages of illnesses such as cancer. Cancer is treated with various modalities *e.g.* radiotherapy, surgery, chemotherapy and supportive care including feeding, control of infections, avoidance of bed sores etc. Efforts of state governments are supplemented by programmes of the Government of India such as the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases & Stroke. There are provisions for manpower, drugs and home based care etc. for various activities including palliative care under the programme during the Eleventh plan period in 100 districts in 21 States.

(b) to (e) An Expert Group was constituted to work out strategies for palliative care in India. The expert group has submitted the recommendations

outlining the strategies for palliative care in India. The suggested strategies include provision of national and state Palliative Care Cells, strengthening of Government Medical Colleges, Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs), and District Hospitals by augmenting human resources, providing reserved beds for palliative care in addition to outpatient facilities, improved availability of morphine as a painkiller, capacity building through training and awareness generation. Detailed operational and financial modalities for implementation of the measures in the health care delivery system have not been worked out.

Consumption pattern of LPG cylinders

*66. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that the three State-run LPG selling companies have conducted a countrywide survey to assess average annual consumption of cylinders per connection; and

(b)   if so, the details of the survey conducted by the three companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The three public sector Oil Marketing Companies, namely, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) have not conducted any survey to assess average annual consumption of LPG cylinder per connection. However, refill data of domestic LPG cylinder of all consumers is available electronically with the OMCs. Therefore, it is possible to generate a report to assess the average consumption of domestic LPG cylinders at any point of time.

Door-to-door campaign for cancer detection

*67. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether the deaths due to cancer are increasing day by day in the country;

(b)   if so, whether some State Governments have started door-to-door campaign for a symptom-based early detection and awareness about cancer;