

stability and predictability in trade relations. Through this initiative, India has been able to strengthen its position in the WTO on issues relating to LDCs and same is also expected to send a strong signal to major developed countries which are yet to comply with the Hong Kong Ministerial Mandate to adopt similar measures. In the process, India has also been able to have more fruitful engagement with the LDC trading partners.

Manufacture of bombs using money made from illegal trade of animals

*57. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a U.P. Police report, money made from illegal trade of animals was being used to manufacture bombs targeting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has asked the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to take stringent measures to prevent such illegal activities; and

(d) if so, the response received by the Central Government from the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) There is no report with the Government that money made from illegal trade of animals is being used to manufacture bombs.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Damage due to lightning strikes in Kerala

*58. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the damages caused to human beings and properties by lightning strikes during rainy season in Kerala;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has persistently been demanding to recognise lightning as a natural calamity, thereby making such victims eligible for compensation from national relief funds; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. In this context, it is mentioned that the issue

of inclusion of any disaster in the list of notified natural disasters has traditionally been considered by the successive Finance Commissions set up under the clause (1) of Article 280 of the Constitution from time-to-time. The 13th Finance Commission, had *inter-alia* considered the proposal for inclusion of lightning. However, the same was not recommended as one of the disasters qualifying for assistance from SDRF/erstwhile CRF and NDRF/erstwhile NCCF.

Presently, lightning is not among the eligible natural disasters for relief under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). However, this Ministry has already submitted its Memorandum to the 14th Finance Commission, in which it has suggested the Commission to take appropriate decision on inclusion of other natural disasters including lightning, in the list of notified disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/NDRF.

The State Governments are required to provide relief from their own resources, to the people affected due to lightning as per their relief codes/manual.

Relaunching of cash transfer scheme for LPG

*59. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to relaunch cash transfer scheme for LPG as a modified version of the Scheme of Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it would protect the interests of consumers;
- (d) how far, this would help check diversion of subsidized cooking gas to unintended users and bring efficiency in the system; and
- (e) the amount of savings in subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIDHARMENDRAPRADHAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched modified Direct Benefit Transfer for LPG (DBTL) scheme in 54 districts on 15.11.2014 and will be launching the scheme all over the country on 1.01.2015.

Under this scheme, the LPG consumers joining this scheme get all domestic LPG cylinders (subsidized as well as non-subsidized cylinder) at market price and subsidy amount as applicable for each domestic subsidized cylinder is transferred to their bank