

Construction of Customs Check Post along Bangladesh Border

391. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tension along the border with Bangladesh has been defused with the postponement of the construction of a customs checkpost in the Dawki area in Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (PROF.M. KAMSON): (a) and (b). Reports have been received about tension over work which was being carried out for the customs checkpost in the Dawki area of Meghalaya. The Bangladesh Rifle is reported to have opposed the work on the plea that the construction is for defensive purposes. On 16 January, 1996, the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire. The BSF did not return fire for fear of causing casualty to civilians. The matter has been taken up through diplomatic channels. The situation on the border is reported to be under control.

Supply of Coal

392. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has made any demand for the supply of coal for use in power plants;

(b) if so, the annual supply made against its demand during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to met the full demand of coal for power plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Demand for coal is made by the respective State Electricity Boards (SEBs) to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term) allocates quarterly linkages to each power stations based on recommendations made by CEA keeping in view the availability of coal of transportation constraints.

(b) Supply of Coal to the power stations in Gujarat for the last three years against linkages were as follows:

(Data Provisional)
(Fig in '000' tonnes)

Year	Linkage	Supply
1995-96 (Upto Jan. 96)	12610	11489
1994-95	15675	12854
1993-94	14325	12646

(c) Close coordination is maintained to ensure supply of coal to power houses. Coal supplies to power houses is also reviewed on weekly basis by an Inter-Ministerial Committee and appropriate necessary action is taken to step up coal supplies wherever necessary. The option of import is also available to the power plants in Gujarat.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

393. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken LPG agencies and petrol retail outlets in Himachal Pradesh and other hilly States; and

(b) the details of the places for which the notification was issued during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) On the basis of the market survey conducted by the Oil Industry on its own, and also at the instance of the Government, locations meeting the viability norms are included in the Marketing Plans from time to time for opening of retail outlets and LPG distributorships in different parts of the country including the hilly areas. Accordingly, 1040 retail outlet dealerships and 1191 LPG distributorships have been included in the current Marketing Plan including 18 retail outlet dealerships and 2 LPG distributorships for Himachal Pradesh.

(b) One retail outlet dealership and three LPG distributorships were advertised during the year 1995 in Himachal Pradesh as under:

(i)	RO	-	Sakoh
(ii)	LPG	-	Parwanoo (earlier plan)
			Simla
			Mandi

[English]

Regional News Bulletin

394. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state: