

the attention of the House to a very serious fact, that the population of this country is increasing by leaps and bounds? I do not think that we have been able to produce LPG to match the demand of such an increasing population. Besides this, there has been a shift in population right from the rural areas to the urban areas and the population pattern in this country is changing very fast. So, to plan for such a changing population it is very difficult with the available material for LPG. But it is our responsibility to make it available.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: This shift in the population from rural to urban areas is not much.

SHRI B. SANKARANAND: If at all the Hon. Member can also help in influencing the views and shaping the opinion of the society, that we must also control the population, then the LPG distribution will take care of itself.

Railway Electrification in Maharashtra

*474. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals for railway electrification in Maharashtra pending for clearance; and

(b) the details of the railway electrification works under progress in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Nil.

(b) As a part of electrification of Delhi-Bombay trunk route via Central Railway and Howrah-Bombay trunk route via Nagpur, work is in progress in sections Waghoda-Bhusawal and Bhandara Road-Nagpur which fall in Maharashtra State. Electrification of Diva-Panvel Section is also in progress.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: First of all, what are the proposals cleared for electrification other than Waghoda-Bhusawal, Diva-Panvel and Howrah-Bombay Sections?

Secondly, what is the cost per kilometre of electrification and thirdly, when will this be completed?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: We have already informed that there is no proposal,

which has been sent to the Planning Commission for clearance.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: I am asking about the proposals which have been cleared, along with these three.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: As far as Maharashtra is concerned there is no other proposal which has been cleared.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: I agree. Which are the ones which have been cleared?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: That is what I am saying. There is no proposal pending for clearance. These three proposals which I have mentioned—where electrification is in progress—will be completed by March 1992. These projects which are in progress involve 132 route kilometres.

So far as the cost is concerned, it costs Rs. 40 lakhs per one route kilometre for electrification.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: What are the proposals for the next five years in Maharashtra for electrification of the Railways? And secondly, is the Konkan Railway route going to be electrified from the beginning?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: So far as the Konkan Railway is concerned, there is no proposal at this moment to think about electrification of that line.

Now we are only concentrating to see that the trunk routes are completed so that it will facilitate the commuters.

About the proposals for electrification of lines in Maharashtra, we have asked for the survey of the line from Jalgaon to Udhna and after the survey is completed we will consider this line.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Sir, the Minister has given an assurance that by March 1992, Diva-Panvel track will be electrified. I would like to know from the Minister whether side by side there is any proposal for starting a suburban railway on Diva-Panvel railway after its electrification is completed.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir, this is only for the completion of Diva-Panvel track, which is 24 kms.

So far as suburban railway is concerned, at the moment I cannot furnish any information about it.