

Post Offices and retain Pass Book of the consumers as security instead of taking cash deposits ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The security deposit is Rs. 175/- per cylinder and Rs. 20/- per regulator except in the case of Bharat Refineries where security deposit per cylinder is Rs. 250/-.

(c) The security deposit carrying no interest goes to the marketing company which owns the cylinders. At any time, more than one cylinder is required per consumer to take care of maintenance, transit time etc. This requires extra investment. On the other hand, no rent is charged on the cylinder from the consumer. Security deposit is refunded when the cylinder is surrendered. The above is an industry practice. The Oil Prices Committee has taken this practice into consideration in fixing the marketing margins.

(d) No, Sir.

Representations regarding cancellation of burshane Gas sub-agencies

4030. SHRI SHIV SAMPATI RAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and nature of representations received by him, the former Minister and the Secretary of the Ministry from some ex-servicemen about the cancellation of their Burshane cooking gas sub-agencies;

(b) how many of these representations have been acknowledged ;

(c) whether any action has been taken on them ; and

(d) if so, the particulars there of and the main reasons for not acknowledging the representations by the Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA) : (a) to (d). M/s Allied Gas Services terminated their sub-agency run by M/s Sandersons Agencies, Khan Market, New Delhi, because of unsatisfactory performance. A number of representations were received in the Ministry against such termination. Since this was a matter relating to

the commercial dealings of the Company, copies of the representations were sent to the Chairman, Bharat Refineries Limited for taking appropriate action. The representative of the said sub-agency was also advised that the matter would have to be looked into and a decision taken by the Company.

Aid for construction of West Coast Konkan Railway

4031. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for public borrowing or to approach the World Bank for aid, for the construction of West Coast Konkan Railway; and

(b) what would be the estimate cost of West Coast Konkan Railway Line ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE) : (a) No.

(b) Rs. 250 crores approximately..

Goods/Parcel Handling Contracts awarded to Porters Cooperative Labour Contract Society Ltd., Allahabad

4032. SHRI BATESHWAR HEMRAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Goods/Parcels handling contracts awarded to Railway Station Porters Cooperative Labour Contracts Society Limited, Allahabad, on Delhi and Moradabad Divisions of the Northern Railway during the last three years together with amount paid in respect of individual contract and date of award of contract ;

(b) whether other Labour Co-operative societies also applied for allotment of contracts awarded to the above Society ; and

(c) if so, whether contracts were not awarded to local genuine and willing Labour Co-operative Societies of actual workers and preference was given to an outsider Society of Allahabad ?