

have to do it.

[Translation]

Supply of LPG Refills

*514. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the maximum number of gas connections fixed for each LPG agency in Delhi as well as in other parts of the country;

(b) the maximum number of consumers who can be registered with an agency;

(c) whether a large number of agencies

are unable to provide LPG refills to the consumers in time; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to minimise the time for supply of LPG refills to the consumers?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The maximum number of gas connections fixed for an LPG Agency except to Co-operative Societies is determined on the basis of refill sales in various parts of the country including Delhi. The ceiling for refill sales in various cities are as follows:

(i) In Bombay	8,000
(ii) In Delhi, Calcutta, Madras	6,500
(iii) In towns with population between 20-40 lakhs	6,000
(iv) In towns with population between 10-20 lakhs	5,000
(v) All towns with population upto 10 lakhs	4,000

(b) No ceiling has been fixed.

(c) and (d). LPG refills are being provided to consumers in time as far as possible. However, individual complaints, as and when received, are being attended promptly. Efforts are constantly on, to ensure that no delay in supply of refills takes place.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my first question relates to part (a). My question consists of two parts. First part is what is the basis of fixing ceiling of connections and the second part is what is machinery with the Government to ensure its implementation because

there are agencies in Delhi which have 7000 to 10,000 connections. So, what is the machinery with Government to ensure the implementation of ceiling?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the hon. Member is right that there are many distributors in Delhi who are having more than the ceiling limit with regard to the customers that they are entitled to. Now, distortions took place on account of various issues. - firstly, the location of the agency in a particular area; Secondly, the purchasing capacity of the people who are around a particular agency and thirdly, the expansion of the population which is creating puzzles to the town planners and city planners.

As far as non-viable agencies are con-

cerned, we have been taking steps to make them viable. Then, we will see how the re-distribution of these agencies and allocations are made in view of the better service to the consumers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHUWANCHANDRA KHANDURI: How many complaints of malpractices have been reported to Government in this connection during the year 1900 and 1991 and the number of agencies against whom the Government has taken action and whether Government has canceled licence of any agency?

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Though it is a fact that we have received many complaints, yet at the moment, I will not be able to say as to how many agencies have been terminated or kept under suspension. I will supply the information to the hon. Member.

[*English*]

SHRI TARA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister that in towns and cities which are not provided LPG agencies as per norms given in the reply, in many cases the consumers do not get their refills even for months and sometimes they have to use some underhand means and pay more money. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether more agencies will be sanctioned in those cities. I personally feel that the complaints which are being made by the consumers cannot be met by any Government. I went to 10-15 cities of my constituency and wherever I went, there is complaint that there is black-marketing of LPG gas.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: This is a complaint throughout the country.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, it is our endeavour to see that the entire demand is met by the turn of the century. As a matter of fact, we are planning for making the availabil-

ity of the product for distribution during the Eighth Plan. It is also a fact that we have not been able to cater to all the cities and towns in this country. Efforts will be made to reduce much complaints.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: The population of my parliamentary constituency Rohtas—a district which lies in Bihar—is about thirty lakh. There used to be an LPG agency there some time back for the distribution of gas but authorities had cancelled the licence in a case of malpractice due to which consumers of that district are facing lot of difficulties. Through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas whether Government is contemplating to provide relief to the consumers by opening a new gas agency there?

[*English*]

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, this is a suggestion for action.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Sir, this issue is agitating the minds of the people. Actually, there is a premium to Rs. 1,000 on each new gas connection and also there is a premium for a new agency. I have already written to the hon. Minister that since the Government is facing severe economic crisis, they should call for the tenders to allot the agencies. Then each tendered will quote a minimum rate of Rs. five lakhs to Rs. ten lakhs, whereby the country can get Rs. 300 crores to Rs. 400 crores by allotting new gas agencies. I would like to know whether the Government is considering this aspect or they want to encourage black-marketing throughout the country. Our scientists have discovered this gas and even the poor masses of the country are not able to utilise this... (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: It has to be a question, no lecture on this.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: I want to know whether the Government is con-

sidering my suggestion to call for tenders in allotting the gas agencies.

MR. SPEAKER: Now you can sit down. You have asked the question. The Minister may reply please.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that the suggestion made by the hon. Member is not acceptable to the Government because tendering agencies will mean injustice to the weaker sections, the freedom fighters and handicapped, who are otherwise entitled to have these agencies. We have made reservation for these people and hence the suggestion of the hon. Member is not acceptable to the Government.

[*Translation*]

Special Security Force to deal with Terrorists

*515. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special security force to deal with the terrorists is being raised to limit the deployment of army in terrorist affected areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other steps being taken to limit the deployment of army in those areas?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central para-military forces are being augmented from time to time to help limit the deployment of army. Instructions have also been issued to State Government/UT

Administrations to seek assistance of the army only when it is unavoidable.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was quite clear. Terrorism is spreading in the country like cancer and this malaise is not being given the treatment as should be given to it. That is why the problem is growing day by day. Under the present circumstances does the hon. Minister feel that there is a need of paramilitary forces to combat the growing terrorism. There should be an independent army to combat it. Today the position is that the terrorism is growing day by day. Even an S.P. was killed in Punjab. In such circumstances is there a need for para-military forces? What does he think in this regard, this is what I want to know from the hon. Minister.

[*English*]

SHRI M.M. JACOB: The present set up of the force is found to be adequate and competent to deal with the situation. But force is not the only answer for combating terrorism in various parts of the country as and when it arises. The para military forces are deployed wherever they are found necessary. Sufficient training is being given and contemplated to be given to the para military forces in combating with the present situation, as and when it is found necessary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said that we do not want to use army, we want to use para-military forces. Para-military forces of many State Governments are sent to other States than their respective States. This creates problem of language at some place and the problem of culture and system at other place with the result different sorts of riots take place there. As the hon. Minister has said that we are capable and we want to do that. Will any direction be given to State Government which want to raise their own para-