

(a) whether dealers for supply of cooking gas cylinders have not been appointed in Patna in adequate number, proportionate to the population of the city;

(b) if so, whether complaints of non-supply of gas cylinders have been highlighted through the press from time to time; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government to remove the difficulties faced by the consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) : While the number of LPG distributorships in any city is not decided according to its population, the size of the population is taken into account for assessing the economic viability of a distributorship. More distributorships are proposed to be opened in Patna by the Oil Industry in a phased manner under its annual Marketing Plans.

(b) and (c) Complaints of occasional shortfall in LPG supplies in various markets in the country including Patna city appear in the press from time to time. Supplies from alternate sources and other necessary measures are taken by the Oil Industry to remove such shortages.

[English]

Public Call Offices in Orissa

4777. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether over 50 per cent of the Public Call Offices in Orissa remain out of order resulting in heavy loss to the Department.

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to rectify them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Complaints when received are attended to promptly.

Growth of Paper Industry

4778. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have studied the problems of Paper Industry;

(b) if so, the main problems facing the Paper Industry; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government for further growth of paper Industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major problems of the industry relate to increasing investment requirements, dwindling raw material supply, escalating input cost, availability of essential inputs such as, coal and power and modernisation and renovation.

(c) The problems of the Paper Industry are kept in view by the Industry, Government, Financial institutions and other concerned agencies, while formulating appropriate remedial measures. Some of the units have taken up modernisation and technological upgradation with a view to achieve increased economic usage of raw materials, higher yield, reduction in energy consumption, improvement of quality, pollution control and prevention of obsolescence. A package of fiscal reliefs, by way of excise concessions, and reduction/waiver of customs duty for imported raw materials has been extended to the paper industry. Infrastructural support has also been improved by increasing allocation of coal to the industry.

Laying of Sewerage in Civil Areas of Delhi Cantonment

4779. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :