

(a) the number of applications for telephone connections which are pending (i) in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and (ii) in the District Headquarters of Andhra Pradesh as on 31 March, 1985 ; and

(b) the average rate at which the telephone connections are made available per month in the twin cities and also in the Districts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The number of applicants pending in twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad and in the District Headquarters of Andhra Pradesh as on 31st March, 1985 is 31661 and 9885 respectively.

(b) The average rate of giving telephone connections per month during 1984-85 in the twin cities and in the Districts was about 360 and 60 lines respectively.

Exchange of fire Between Indian Army and Pakistan Army at Stachen Glacier

174. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any exchange of fire between Indian army and Pakistan army in Siachen Glacier, if so the number of casualties on either side ;

(b) whether the Pakistan's Foreign Minister gave a statement to the press on about 8.6.1985 claiming Siachen Glacier for Pakistan ; and

(c) whether the said area is under the effective control and occupation of Indian army and if not, the steps taken to gain control over the said area ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) There have been cases of exchange of fire between Pakistani and Indian troops in the Siachen Glacier area. Casualties have occurred on both sides. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

(b) Government have seen media reports on the Pakistan Foreign Minister's statement in the Pakistan National Assembly on 8th June, 1985, claiming Siachen Glacier area

to be part of the "Northern Area of Pakistan".

(c) The Siachen Glacier area is an integral part of India and we are in effective control of the same.

Petrol-Hydrogen Cars

175. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the new petrol-hydrogen cars which have been under test in West Germany and other Western nations in order to meet the needs of the 21st century and to reduce pollution and if so, details thereof (Telegraph, 25 May, 1985);

(b) whether any such fuels are under test in India and if so, details of the advances made ;

(c) whether it is correct that India is not using alcohol in petrol cars despite the new designs developed in the country earlier ; and

(d) whether Government propose to review its R and D effort in this direction and have clear objectives and time bound projects in order to be ready for the 21st century as other countries are doing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Work on use of hydrogen in cars and other vehicles has been going on for the past several year's in Western countries. Hydrogen is considered by many as the future fuel.

(b) Laboratories studies on the subject have been undertaken at some universities and Indian Institute of Technology.

(c) Yes, Sir. Commercial use of alcohol in petrol cars is not being made nor special alcohol run engines are being produced in the country.

(d) Although the technology to blend power alcohol with petrol for use as automotive fuel has been established, commercial use of alcohol in India as automotive fuel has not been found feasible as surplus alcohol is not available for this purpose on a steady basis. Besides, use of alcohol as