

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any significant effort has been made in this regard during the past one year ; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b) It is the accepted policy of the Government to encourage the setting up of industries in backward areas. Towards this end, the Govt. is operating a number of schemes like Central Investment Subsidy, Transport Subsidy and Interest Subsidy etc. Details of all these schemes are contained in the booklet on "Incentives for Industries in Backward Areas" read with Press Note No. 14/2/83-DBA-I dated 9.4.85, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) There has been an increase in the issue of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Industrial Licences (IL) granted in backward areas during the year 1985 as compared to the year 1984 as would be evident from the following table :-

Year	All Backward Areas		Backward Areas of Kerala	
	LOI	IL	LOI	IL
1984	627	323	5	13
1985	625	377	15	13

(Jan.-Oct.)

Opening of Post Offices in rural areas in Bihar

3290. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any blanket ban on expansion of postal services in rural areas ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the number of post offices opened in Bihar during the last three years ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The number of post offices opened in Bihar during the last 3 years is as follows :

1982-83	121
1983-84	212
1984-85	6

Commissioning of Cement Plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh

3291. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for abnormal delay in commissioning of the 3000-tonne per day capacity cement plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether it is a fact that civil and equipment machinery works are not progressing as per schedule due to holding up of huge payments to these agencies ; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to expedite the commissioning of the project where Government have already spent over Rs. 100 crores ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The 3,000 TPD capacity cement plant at Tandur in Andhra Pradesh is expected to be commissioned as per schedule.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of more Kerosene retail outlets in Madhya Pradesh

3292. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to ensure the supply of kerosene to the backward States ;

(b) whether there is short supply of kerosene in Madhya Pradesh ;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to open some more kerosene retail outlets in Madhya Pradesh ; and

(d) the number of such retail outlets proposed to be opened in Madhya Pradesh in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The Oil companies endeavour to supply the allocated quantities of kerosene oil to the States, including the backward States. The supplies to Madhya Pradesh during 1984-85 have been substantially higher than in 1983-84.

(c) and (d) Under the Marketing Plan 1984-85 of the oil industry, 12 SKO/LDO dealerships are to be established in Madhya Pradesh. In view of the various steps involved in the selection for and establishment of each dealership it is not feasible to indicate as to how many will be commissioned during 1985-86.

Supply of gas to Fertilizer Plants to save coal and fuel oil

3293. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to supply natural gas from Bombay High to the gas-based fertilizer plants at a concessional rate ;

(b) if so, the rate fixed for selling the natural gas to the fertilizer units ;

(c) whether this supply of natural gas to the fertilizer units will check consumption of fuel oil and coal by the fertilizer units ;

(d) if so, the quantum of coal and other fuel oil expected to be saved ; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The

issue of pricing of natural gas for various uses is under Government's consideration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Each of the gas based plants of 1350 tpd ammonia and 2200 tpd urea would have consumed about 0.4 million tonnes per year of coal of a calorific value of 4000 K cal/kg, and about 20,000 tonnes per year of fuel oil, if their steam and power generation facilities were based on coal as fuel. These facilities are now based on gas as fuel and the daily requirement will be about 0.4 million cubic metres per day of gas for each plant. The power will be generated by gas turbine which will have heat recovery unit to produce steam for use in process, thereby achieving high thermal efficiency in the use of gas.

Declaration of Kasargoda and Pathanamthitta Districts of Kerala as "no industry districts"

3294. SHRI P.A. ANTHONY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representation has been received to declare Kasargoda and Pathanamthitta Districts of Kerala as "no industry districts" ; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The districts created upto 31.3.83 and having no large or medium scale industries as of 1979-80, are identified as 'No Industry Districts.' The districts of Kasargoda and Pathanamthitta in Kerala did not fulfil this criteria. The Kerala Government has been informed accordingly.

Construction of Barapole Hydro-Power Project in Kodagu District

3295. SHRI NARSING RAO SURYAWANSHI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of Barapole Hydro-Power Project in Kodagu District, if executed,