

(c) the number of agencies cancelled on this account ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Separate statistics regarding malpractices in the methods of storage and supply of LPG cylinders are not maintained. However, depending upon the nature of the malpractice established, action against the erring distributors is taken under the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. During the last 3 years, 4 distributorships in Maharashtra have been terminated.

[Translation]

**Utilisation of wastes to prevent environmental pollution**

8335. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state whether Government propose to produce cooking gas and manure from rubbish in cities at cheaper rates with a view to preventing environmental pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : Yes, Madam. An experimental plant for extraction of biogas from a sanitary land fill has been successfully commissioned by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources in Delhi. The extracted gas is used for generation of electricity but could also be used for cooking. Consideration is being given to scaling up the pilot plant. Compost plants for production of manure from municipal solid wastes have already been set up by some municipal corporations.

[English]

**Pollution caused by drilling operations**

8336. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether drilling operations of Oil and Natural Gas Commission in Assam are causing considerable environmental damage; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to mitigate such damages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Special measures have been initiated to protect the environment through an integrated Environmental Management Programme. It include :

- (i) Strengthening and raising of ring bunds around the sites and provision of polythene lining on the pits.
- (ii) Recycling of water near deep drilling rigs for minimising the effluent generation.
- (iii) Incorporation of oil collection systems at drill sites.
- (iv) Introduction of an organised tree plantation scheme.

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**SHORT NOTICE QUESTION**

**Imposition of wage freeze in public sector units**

1. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are seriously contemplating imposition of wage freeze in all the public sector units;

(b) whether one of the proposals is that annual increments will no longer be given automatically and will be governed by productivity index; and

(c) whether Government have discussed this issue with various Trade Unions ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.