

(b) if so, the details regarding quantity required for domestic and industrial purposes and the requirement of different regions ; and

(c) whether Government would be in a position to sustain continuous supply of compressed gas from the indigenous production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c). The national gas grid is part of a long term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is under way for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Cause of sickness in small industries

3940. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme of National Equity Fund introduced or likely to be introduced to give support to small industries in raising their seed capital to facilitate increased borrowing from the Banks ; and

(b) the recommendations made by several studies carried out to assess the extent and cause of sickness in small industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The details of the scheme of National Equity Fund are being worked out.

(b) The studies carried out to assess the extent and causes of sickness in small industries have broadly identified the principal causes of sickness as defective planning and implementation, management deficiency, inefficiency in financial control,

diversion of resources, poor industrial relations, obsolescence of technology and machinery, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials, finance and other inputs, and infrastructural constraints. The studies have laid emphasis on the intensive character of relief measures and its speedy implementation. Their recommendations relate to identification of sickness and prompt relief measures to arrest sickness in the incipient stage, conducting of viability studies of sick units and nursing of potentially viable units through a well designed package of rehabilitation.

[*Translation*]

Opening of coal stockyard in Madhya Pradesh

3941. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
SHRI K.N. PRADHAN :
SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision to open coal stockyard at twelve places in Madhya Pradesh was taken by the Coal India Limited in the past ;

(b) if so, the number of the coal stockyards which have been set up in Madhya Pradesh till date ;

(c) whether these stockyards are actually functioning ; and

(d) the action taken to set up the rest of the stockyards ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Coal India, in consultation with the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, had decided earlier to open 12 road borne stockyards in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, 5 such stockyards were commissioned at Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Katni and Dongargarh. However, with the change of policy to move coal by rail, rail borne stockyards were opened at Indore, Gwalior and

Raipur. The location of Dongergarh was changed to Raipur. The road borne stockyards at Katni and Bhopal were discontinued with the introduction of rail movement to stockyards. Later, Raipur rail borne stockyard was closed due to operational problems. In addition to these stockyards, CIL has been operation motional stockyards at Bhopal, Jabalpur, Katni, Satna, Maihar, Ratlam and Raipur to meet the requirements of consumers by distributing coal on ex-wagon basis.

(c) At present only Indore stockyard is functioning. Due to operations reasons the Gwalior stockyard has been suspended for the time being.

(d) The whole stockyard scheme was reviewed by an expert Committee appointed by CIL under the Chairmanship of Shri J. G. Kumaramangalam, former, Chairman, CMAL. Based on the recommendations of this Committee, 5 locations have been identified for opening of CIL stockyards in Madhya Pradesh, namely, Indore Gwalior, Raipur, Bhopal and Katni. Locations have been decided on the basis of demand potential of the small consumers in the command area, transport, logistic and economic viability of operating stockyards. Accordingly tenders have already been invited to open stockyards at Katni and Bhopal.

[English]

Ratio of LPC Agencies and Connections between Urban and Rural Areas

3942. SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the ratio of cooking gas agencies between urban and rural areas in the country at present ;

(b) the ratio of cooking gas connections between urban and rural areas in the country ;

(c) the steps Government contemplate to encourage the use of cooking gas in rural areas and open more outlets and

sanction more Cooking gas connections in rural areas ; and

(d) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard and if so, what is the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). While no LPG distributorships have been set up to make supplies to any rural area as such, some connections in areas close or contiguous to urban LPG markets do exist, the proportion of such connections, in the total customer population of around 1.0 lakhs being negligible.

(c) and (d). Considering the projections of LPC and bottling availability as well as the general policy of covering, in a phased manner, towns with a population of around 20,000 or more and capable of sustaining an economically viable distributorship, it is not proposed presently to market LPG in rural areas.

Purchase of Components from Foreign Countries

3943. SHRI ANAND SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the components are being purchased from foreign market against foreign currency as the Mankapur unit is not in a position to produce the same as per production schedule ;

(b) if so, the estimated foreign exchange expenditure likely to be incurred during the years 1987 to 1990 ; and

(c) officers designated to make these purchases and the system for purchase ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b). The production and purchase of components from abroad, is proceeding by and large as per the approved phased production programme which was as follows :