

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (e). There was no specific provision during the Sixth plan period nor is there any specific proposal for modernisation, diversification and technology upgradation for sick industrial units in West Bengal during the Seventh plan period.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### New Methods for Replacement of Damaged and old Cables

4455. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in big cities a lot of time is being consumed in replacing damaged or old cables;

(b) whether it involves digging up of the buried cables etc.;

(c) if so, whether the telecommunication consultants have suggested new methods for cable replacement and ducting; and

(d) whether Government have adopted the new method in all big cities, particularly in Bangalore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. Cable laying in underground ducts with a simplified method has been suggested.

(d) Yes, Sir.

[*Translation*]

#### Supply of Genuine Gas Cylinders to Consumers

4456. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the serious problem that at times deliverymen employed by the gas agencies, supply gas cylinders of other companies, but at the time of supply of new cylinder to consumers the agency does not accept them on the plea that they are fake; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to ensure the supply of genuine cylinders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARAM) : (a) and (b). The oil marketing companies have occasionally come across instances of LPG cylinders of one of the other companies with consumers. Such cases are generally dealt with on merits and the cylinders are accepted for replacement provided it is not a spurious one. All LPG distributors are required to check cylinders before delivery to consumers to ensure, *inter-alia*, that they are genuine and belong to the oil company concerned. Customers, too, can refuse to accept cylinders on these grounds.

[*English*]

#### Allotment of Diesel, Petrol and Gas Agencies in Maharashtra

4457. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria adopted for appointing gas distributors and agents for diesel and petrol pumps in the country;

(b) the number of gas distributors and agents appointed for diesel and petrol pumps in Maharashtra during 1984 as well as in the current year; and

(c) the number of those among them who are scheduled castes and those who belong to backward classes in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) The oil marketing companies make appointments of Retail