

Kerala is quite insufficient to meet the needs of the people;

(b) if so, whether Kerala Government has taken up the matter with Union Government to find out a solution to the problems raised by the scarcity of cooking gas supplied to the state; and

(c) if so, the steps Government have initiated to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir. The demand for LPG refills is being met by the three oil companies.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Compensation to Inhabitants of Tanjore, Tamil Nadu

5112. SHRI M. SELVARASU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of compensation given to small farmers whose land has been acquired by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the East Tanjore District of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether ONGC has given employment to those whose land has been acquired; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) have paid compensation for the land acquired by it in accordance

with the rates decided by the concerned State Govt. authorities in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c). ONGC follows the Government guidelines regarding rehabilitation of families whose land is acquired, according to which, to avoid over-manning in public sector enterprises, it may not be possible to ensure that one person from each family whose land has been acquired is employed by the concerned organisation. However, such persons are given preference if they are sponsored by the local employment exchange for vacancies notified by ONGC and if they possess requisite qualifications. ONGC also provides assistance to the State Government for schemes for the rehabilitation of such dispossessed families.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Varanasi-Bhatni Rail Line

5113. SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the work relating to conversion of Varanasi-Bhatni metre-gauge rail line into broad-gauge is likely to be completed; and

(b) the extent of additional funds now required to complete this work and the provision made for 1990-91 in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Bhatni-Mau has already been opened as broad gauge. Balance section up to Varanasi would be opened as BG during 1990 - 91.

(b) An amount of Rs. 22 crores was required to complete this project. For 1990 - 91 an allocation of Rs. 18.91 crores has been made with which it would be possible to open the line as broad gauge.