

(b) the number out of them already converted and the number of exchanges yet to be converted, district-wise; and

(c) the time by which the remaining exchanges are likely to be converted with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). No specific targets were fixed for 1993-94 for conversion of exchanges into electronic. However 300 exchanges were converted into electronic during 1993-94, in Karnataka.

As on 01.04.1994, 243 non electrical exchanges existed in Karnataka, out of which 106 have been converted into electronic, so far during 1994-95. The remaining exchanges will be converted progressively and as per the Policy of the Department.

Districtwise information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

LPG Connections in Tamil Nadu

186. SHRI A. ASOKARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of LPG in Tamil Nadu at present; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to provide more LPG connections in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) During the period April-June, 1994, consumption/sale of LPG by the Government oil companies in Tamil Nadu has been 59468 MTs.

(b) Release of new connections is dependent *inter-alia* upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, viability of the distributors and total enrolment plans, etc. Efforts are however, constantly on to release LPG connections to as many applicants and as early as possible.

Premium for Power Companies

187. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assured power companies at 16% rate of return on the premium raised in equity issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the points raised by private sector and foreign companies in this matter; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on suggestions made by those companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) to (c). It is considered that Premium raised while issuing shares, and actually utilised for the construction of power projects should also be entitled to return as for equity. No formal Notification has, however, been issued in this regard.