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| 1. Bombay | 12. Latur |
| 2. Pune | 13. Nanded |
| 3. Nagpur | 14. Osmanabad |
| 4. Nasik | 15. Raigad |
| 5. Ahmednagar | 16. Satara |
| 6. Akola | 17. Sangli |
| 7. Amraoti | 18. Solapur |
| 8. Aurangabad | 19. Thane |
| 9. Dhule | 20. Wardha |
| 10. Jalgaon | 21. Yavatmal |
| 11. Kolhapur | |

(b) The introduction of Speed Post Service is an on-going process depending on demand, potential viability and operational feasibility.

[English]

Closure of LPG Agencies

8154. DR. SAKSHIJI :
SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies closed down in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies out of them in respect of which the permission has been given to revive them; and

(d) the number of the petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies against whom the enquiry is yet to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) 43 RO dealerships and 42 LPG distributorships were closed down in the country during the last three years for various malpractices such as misappropriation of company's funds, benami operations and violation of various marketing guidelines, etc.

(c) Out of the above, 6 retail outlet dealerships and 4 LPG distributorships have been restored.

(d) Inquiry against 18 LPG distributorships is going on.

SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act

8155. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to include the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The matter regarding inclusion of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution is under active consideration of the Government.

Oil Refining Capacity

8156. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to augment oil refining capacity in the Northern India after the recent shortage in supplies in the region;

(b) if so, the details of capacity addition proposed to be made;

(c) the time by which this process is likely to be completed; and

(d) to what extent the additional capacity would ease the oil shortage in the region ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (d) Government has already approved the setting up of a 6 MMTPA capacity refinery at Panipat by IOC. The project is scheduled to be completed by April, 1997. There is also a proposal to set up a grass-root refinery in Uttar Pradesh. The details of the proposal are being worked out.

The above refineries will increase the availability of petroleum products in the Northern region.

[Translation]

Revenue from Oil Sector to States

8157. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide a part of the revenue received from oil and gas sector to the States with a view to undertaking developmental activities at regional and local levels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?