

(a) the criteria adopted by the Government for allotment of petrol retail outlets and LPG distributorship;

(b) when these criteria were fixed last and the basis thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the present income limit of the applicants for the retail outlet and distributorship;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be changed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government propose to extend the reservation facilities to OBCs also for the above dealership; and

(g) if so, the time by which it is likely to be extended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A uniform policy for allotment of dealerships/distributorships was adopted on industry basis for the first time in September, 1977. The policy/guidelines have been revised from time of time keeping in view the commercial interests of oil marketing companies as well as social objectives of the Government. As Per existing policy, appoint of dealers/distributors is made through the process of advertisement of locations included in the Marketing Plans, and selection on the basis of interviews by Oil Selection Boards of candidates meeting eligibility criteria relating to nationality, age, educational qualification, residence, income and multiple dealership norms. Reservation is provided for the following categories :

SC/ST	-	25%
Physically Handicapped	-	7½%
Defence	-	7½%
Freedom Fighters	-	3%
Outstanding sports	-	2%
Persons Open	-	55%

In additional, a few dealerships/distributorships are also allotted under discretionary powers of the Government on compassionate grounds.

(c) to (g) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to revise the existing dealership policy including reservations, income criterion.

#### Courier Service

3122. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL :  
SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL :  
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether courier services are in operation in every part of the country and they are collecting the service charges from the customers arbitrarily;

(b) if so, whether the Government would issue directives in this regard or would fix any limit for service charges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU) :

(a) Yes, Sir. At present service charges collected by private courier agencies are not regulated by the Government.

(b) to (d) No directives can be issued under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 till it is suitably amended to bring the private couriers under the regulatory framework of the Government.

#### Dr. Ambedkar Award

3123. SHRI M.G. REDDY :  
DR. R. MALLU :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have instituted an annual 'Dr. Ambedkar Award' to deserving individuals and institutions who worked for downtrodden sections;

(b) whether the serving bureaucrats are also eligible to get the award;

(c) whether it is not against the code of civil servants to accept such awards while in service; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to ensure that unscrupulous officials do not manipulate such awards for themselves?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Code of Procedure approved by the Government, all person (s) or group of persons or organisations without any distinction of race, caste, creed or sex shall be eligible for the Award.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Lead Free Petrol Retail outlets

3124. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

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

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets stocking unleaded petrol as on July 31, 1995 City-wise;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the difficulties being faced by owners of vehicles with catalytic converters due to lack of proper network for unleaded petrol supply;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to expand the network all over the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) The number of retail outlets as on 1-8-1995 supplying unleaded petrol in the four Metro Cities and on the radial routes emanating from these Metro Cities is as under :

City	Highway Routes	Radial Routes	Total
Delhi	83	15	98
Bombay	35	5	40
Calcutta	31	5	36
Madras	10	4	14
Total	159	29	188

(b) to (d) Based on the demand assessment of unleaded petrol made by the Oil Industry, the number of retail outlets is decided and will keep on increasing with the growth in demand so as to ensure easy availability of the product to the customers.

[Translation]

#### Exploration of oil and Gas

3125. SHRI BHUBANESWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the places in Bihar where research for Petroleum and Natural Gas is being carried out; and

(b) the progress made in this regard so far particularly in Hazaribagh, Kujoo and Nawada districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Exploration in the form of acquisition of seismic data is in progress in the Bahadurgung-Araria area in Bihar.

(b) No exploration work has been carried out in these districts.

[English]

#### Allocation of Gas for Power Projects

3126. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :  
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL :

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

(a) whether some gas-based power projects submitted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh during February to September, 1990 to the Central Electricity Authority for clearance have not been given techno-economic clearance in the absence of allocation of gas for these projects by his Ministry/Gas Authority of India;

(b) whether the Union Government have also received representations from the state Government regarding allocation of gas for these projects; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to allocate gas for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

#### Transshipment of Rox

3127. SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the self-styled "finance secretary" of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) had admitted of receiving huge funds in US dollars through Pakistani diplomatic officials based in Dhaka;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any evidence of large-scale transshipment of RDX of Pakistani origin to underground groups in North-East India like the NSCN and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (d) Interrogations have revealed that an amount of 10 lakhs Bangladesh Takkas was received by the NSCN from the Pakistan Embassy in Dhaka. Government do not have any definite report about transshipment of RDX of Pakistan origin to underground groups like the NSCN in the North-East.