

ed to the creation of a separate P&T circle for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government has offered to provide the necessary accommodation at (i) Simla, (ii) any other place in Himachal Pradesh for the circle office;

(d) if so, the nature and contents of the offer alongwith the date on which it was made; and

(e) the action taken by Government on the offer?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNI-
CATIONS (SHRI BHISHMA
NARAIN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.
The proposal for the creation of
separate P&T Circle for Himachal
Pradesh has been agreed in principle.

(b) to (e). The Government of Himachal Pradesh was requested for provision of suitable accommodation at Simla for the formation of separate P&T Circles for Himachal Pradesh. The State Government could not provide accommodation at Simla but offered to provide accommodation at Joginder Nagar in the month of October, 1978. The offer of the State Government was not accepted as it was considered necessary to locate the P&T Circles at the headquarters of the State Government at Simla with a view to maintaining effective liaison with the State Government.

Taking over of M/s. Kosan Gas Company

1. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the

Kosan Gas Company has been taken over by Government of India;

(b) if so, whether the two subsidiary firms viz. Delhi Gas Company and Natural Gas Company, have also been taken over along with the Kosan Gas Company; if so, the terms and conditions of services of the employees of these two subsidiary firms;

(c) whether their pay-scales, gratuity etc., will be at par with those of Hindustan Petroleum, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what will be their pay scales etc. and the reasons for disparity if any?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. These two companies were operating earlier as retailing agents of Kosan Gas Company and they are now operating as retailing agents of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.

(c) and (d). In view of the fact that these two companies have not been taken over by the Government or Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL), the question of the pay scales, gratuity etc., of the employees of these two companies being at par with those of HPCL does not arise.

Allocation and Execution of Rural Reconstruction Schemes

2. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of RURAL RECONSTRUCTION be pleased to state:

(a) the role of his Ministry at Centre and in States for allocation, planning, coordination and execution of rural reconstruction schemes;

(b) the names of departments attached to his Ministry;