

(d) the normal life of a road in Delhi and whether due supervision is not maintained by the Authorities concerned while the roads are being repaired/relaid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, in few places on account of unprecedented/intermittent rains and excessive traffic some damage occurs in the form of potholes. After the rains, repairs/resurfacing of the roads is undertaken by the concerned agencies.

(d) The normal life of a road with premixed bituminous surfacing is taken between two to three years whereas in the cases of bituminous dense carpet surfacing, the life of a road is taken as five years depending on the traffic load. Due supervision and care is taken by the concerned authorities while relaying/repairing roads.

[Translation]

Increase in Water Tax

1739. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an exorbitant increase in water tax and framing of a new law for collecting water tax by Kanpur Water Authority; is violative of rules;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to defer/scrap this law;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Question do not arise.

Supply of Wheat

1740. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ration Depot of Kendriya Bandar H-Block in Gole Market Delhi has not been supplied with wheat for the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make proper arrangement of the supply of wheat to the above mentioned depot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) The Fair Price Shop

attached to the Kendriya Bhandar Store at H Block in Gole Market i.e. Kali Bari Store (FPS No. 2204) has been having adequate stock of wheat.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Kashmiri Militants

1741. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Kashmiri Militants who are in jail outside the Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether the Government are proposing to transfer them to Jammu and Kashmir jails; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) As per available information, there are 66 J & K prisoners in Jails outside the State of J & K.

(b) and (c). Some persons arrested by the J & K authorities had been lodged in Jails outside the State due to lack of adequate accommodation in Jails in J & K. As and when accommodation becomes available these prisoners are transferred back to the State.

LPG Agencies

1742. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies allowed to bifurcate during the last year State-wise, which were allotted on partnership basis;

(b) the number of such cases under consideration; and

(c) the policy and rules being followed by the Govt. in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) During the last three years i.e. 1993-94 to 1995-96, two (2) LPG distributorships have been allowed to be bifurcated on compassionate grounds.

(b) Two.

(c) Generally, bifurcation is not allowed. However, bifurcation of an LPG distributorship has been permitted on compassionate grounds or some other extraordinary circumstances in deserving cases.

LPG Connections

1743. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to declare Dakashina

Kannada and Kodagu Districts in Karnataka state as Hilly Region and provide LPG connections for domestic purposes to the consumer on demands:

(b) the number of LPG agencies functioning in these districts and the number of existing LPG connections;

(c) the number of consumers in the waiting list of so since how long; and

(d) the time by which LPG connections are likely to be given to all the waiting consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) No. Sir, LPG connections are released on demand in the hilly areas at altitude of above 4500 ft. from 1.1.96 and in hilly areas at altitudes between 2000 ft. and 4500 ft. from 1.4.96. Dakshina Kanada and Kodagu Districts have not been considered as hilly regions, in the list of hilly areas prepared by Planning Commission.

(b) and (c). The information is given as under:

	No. of Distributors	Existing Customer population	Waiting list
Dakshina Kannada	26	113271	53060
Kodagu	3	24293	4670

(d) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Dakshina Kannada and Kodagu District in Karnataka State depending upon the availability of LPG new customer enrolment plant, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made. All the people in the waiting list in the country are likely to be provided with LPG connections in the next four/ five years.

[Translation]

Solar Energy

1744. DR. G.R. SARODE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the institutions engaged in production of solar energy; and

(b) the details of the subsidy given to these institutions; State-wise and institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). A number of manufacturers in both the public and private sectors are engaged in the production of devices and systems to harness solar energy for generating electricity - related applications like rural lighting, water pumping and rural telecommunications, and for generating heat for use in

applications such as, water heating, cooking, and drying. These devices and systems are being utilised by a large number of organisations and individuals.

At present, a central subsidy of 50% of the ex-works cost of solar photovoltaic systems is being provided for domestic and community lighting and village level small power plants to users under the socially oriented scheme. The subsidy for solar lanterns is Rs.1500/- per lantern. The subsidy distursed to the states for these solar photovoltaic devices during 1995-96 is given in the enclosed statement. These subsidies provided by MNES are routed through the State Non-Conventional Energy Development Agencies. Further, soft loans at interest rates of 2.5% for rural areas and 5% for others are being provided by the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, the financing arm of MNES to individuals and institutions purchase of solar photovoltaic devices/systems. Under another programme, solar photovoltaic water pumps for agriculture and related users are also being supplied for which a subsidy @ Rs.125/- per peak watt of photovoltaic capacity is available to users through the solar pump manufacturers subject to a maximum of Rs.1,50,000/- per pump. A soft loan of upto Rs. 1,00,000/- at 5% interest is also available to users in addition to the above subsidy.

For promoting solar water heating systems soft loans are being provided to users through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) and Canara Bank under an interest subsidy scheme. IREDA provides soft loans for industrial and institutional systems (at interest rates of 8.3 % to industries and 5% to non-profit making organisations respectively) and for domestic systems through its financial intermediaries (at a maximum rate of 5% to end users).

Canara Bank provides soft loans for domestic users and small establishments at an interest rate of 5.5%. The Canara Bank scheme is at present operational in Bangalore, Mangalore, Mysore, Delhi, Madras and Pune. A rebate of 0.5% on the above interest rate is available for installation of Solar Collectors certified by the Bureau of Indian Standards. The interest subsidy schemes of IREDA is also applicable to other solar thermal products, such as solar driers, and solar stills for water purification.

STATEMENT

Subsidy provided to various States/UTs under Solar Photovoltaic Programme of MNES in 1995-96.

S.No.	State/UT	(Rs.in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.50
2.	Assam	3.75
3.	Bihar	74.47