

work to be carried out for 1997-98;

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make the functioning of Regional Selection Board more transparent and efficient; and

(f) the details of the marketing plan for petroleum products for 1997-98 for Maharashtra State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) The estimated demand and actual sale of LPG in Maharashtra during the last three years are as under :

Year	Est. Demand (Figs in TMT's)	Actual Sales (Figs in TMT's)
1994-95	592.30	605.80
1995-96	647.82	669.84
1996-97	713.74	721.50

(b) The details of demand projections of LPG in the State of Maharashtra during the Ninth Plan are as under :

Year	Demand (Figs in TMT's)
1997-98	1247.92
1998-99	1376.90
1999-00	1540.83
2000-01	1672.52
2001-02	1770.58

(c), (d) and (f) It has been decided to have a two-year Marketing Plan 1996-98 instead of single year plan 1996-97. The Marketing Plan 1996-98 for petrol/diesel retail outlets has been finalised. It contains 433 retail outlet proposals for different parts of the country including 34 for the State of Maharashtra. The Marketing Plan for LPG distributorships and SKO/LDO dealerships has not yet been finalised.

(e) Revised Dealer Selection Guidelines have been laid down with a view to ensuring fair and transparent functioning of the Dealer Selection Boards in making the selections for dealers/distributors of petroleum products. The composition of the Board has been decided as under :

- (i) A retired Judge of High Court - Chairman
- (ii) An officer not below the rank of Dy. General Manager of the concerned Oil Company. - Member
- (iii) An officer not below the rank of DGM of the another Oil Company. - Member

It would be incumbent on the Board to finalise the merit panel within 24 hours of the completion of the interview.

Pilots in IA and AI

2961. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of pilots employed in the Indian Airlines and the Air India and the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes pilots out of them;

(b) whether the Government proposed to provide special training to the pilots belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN) : (a) Details of pilots are as under :-

	Total No. of Pilots	SC	ST
Air India	413	15	3
Indian Airlines	434	22	6

(b) and (c) Both Air India and Indian Airlines appoint Commercial Pilots License holders as trainee pilots from the open market. Presidential directive regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in appointments in Public Sector Enterprises is followed by the two airlines. All the trainee pilots including SC & ST are imparted training on the aircraft in the fleet of the two airlines.

Supply of Seamless Steel Pipes

2962. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC awarded the contract for the supply of seamless steel line pipes for B-55 Project to Marubeni Corporation of Japan by miscalculating the freight charges though the tenders of Dalmine of Italy were the lowest;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether by this action, O.N.G.C. has imposed an additional burden of about Rs. 1.75 crores on