

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. 36 LPG distributorships have been commissioned in Delhi since 1987. However, some distributorships for which Letters of Intent have been issued are yet to be commissioned mainly due to delay in the allotment/taking possession of land. They would be commissioned as soon as land is available and other requirements are completed.

Utilisation of Natural Gas

7884. DR. VISWANATHAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to divert the natural gas from West Godavari to industrially backward areas like Srikakulam;

(b) whether any commitment for supply of gas to some gas based power plants in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh has also been made; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). 4,00,000 cubic metres per day of natural gas has been committed for a 3 x 33 MW Power Plant to be set up by the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board at Vijeswaram. Availability of gas has been indicated for a large plant in Kakinada.

Central Investment in Power Sector in Eastern Region

7885. SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is inadequate Central investment in the Power sector in the East-

ern region which is a major cause for poor availability of electricity; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The total installed capacity in the Central Sector which was 630 MW in the Eastern Region at the end of the 7th Plan will increase to 4030 MW at the end of the 8th Plan as per the tentative programme of incremental capacity addition. It is estimated that energy deficit in the Region will reduce from the present 14.15% to 2.3% at the end of the Eighth Plan.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of 'Palace of Wheels'

7886. SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives for introducing 'Palace on Wheels' train and the success achieved by Government in this regard; and

(b) the amount spent so far on running this train and the profit earned during last three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) 'Palace on Wheels' train was introduced to promote International tourism in India and to increase country's foreign exchange earnings. In 1988-89, the occupancy of this train was 93.4% and the total foreign exchange earnings were US Dollars 12.55 lakhs.

(b) The cost and profit/loss earned/incurred by the Railways in running this train during the last three years are as under: