

(a) whether there is acute shortage of gas cylinders in Etah district of U.P. and the consumers do not get refills in time; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) A nominal backlog was reported on 7.3.90 at Kasganj in Etah District.

(b) Refill supplies have been stepped up to clear this temporary shortage.

[English]

Production of LPG

1168. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE:
DR LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of cooking gas at present;

(b) whether it is sufficient to meet the demand; and

(c) if not, the steps contemplated to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) During 1989-90, the production of LPG in the country is estimated at 1.92 million tonnes;

(b) No, Sir;

(c) The deficit in the supply is planned to be met through imports to the extent possible. Steps are also being taken to

augment the indigenous capacity for production of LPG.

[Translation]

Shifting of Western Railway Headquarter to Ahmedabad

1169. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to shift the main headquarters of Western Railway from Bombay to Ahmedabad in view of the expansion of train services in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The location of the Headquarters of a Zonal Railway is decided on operational and administrative considerations and not on the basis of territorial jurisdiction of states. Moreover, the shifting of a well established office will also cause severe dislocation to the family set up of a large number of staff. Based on these considerations, it is not considered feasible to shift the Western Railway Headquarters from Bombay.

Purchase of Inventories by R.D.S.O. (Lucknow)

1170. SHRIGUMAN MALLODHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways give any preference to small industries over medium and heavy industries in the matter of purchase of its inventories;

(b) if so, the basis on which R.D.S.O., Lucknow accepts or rejects the products of