

(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

small industries;

(c) whether Railways have framed any rules in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there have been cases in which ISI marks products of small industries had not been accepted by R.D.S.O., Lucknow; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Purchase/Price preference as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Supply, are given to Small Scale Industries registered with NSIC over the Large Scale Units.

(b) The products of Small Scale Industries, are accepted/rejected on the basis of competitiveness of offers and reasonableness of rates quoted.

(c) The rules framed by Department of Supply, which is the nodal Ministry in this regard, are followed by the Railways.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Booking of Maruti Vehicles

1171. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of advance deposited by the intending buyers with Maruti Udyog limited by way of booking of various models of Maruti cars; and

(b) the amount of interest on such advances being earned every year by Maruti Udyog Limited?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The total amount received

and retained by Maruti Udyog Limited by way of booking of deposits for various models of vehicles from 1983 to 1989 was Rs. 506.93 crores.

(b) Funds available with Maruti include these deposit funds, as well as funds arising from other Maruti borrowings, retained earnings etc. Some of these funds have been used for company business, while others have been lent in accordance with Government guidelines. In view of the different sources and uses of funds, it is not possible to identify and segregate interest earnings arising from booking deposits alone.

[English]

Mangalore-Bombay (Konkan) Line

1172. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to commence the construction of Konkan railway line from Mangalore to Bombay during the current year;

(b) whether Government also propose to provide sufficient funds during 1990-91 for Mangalore-Udupi section;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have set up any committee to ensure speedy completion of this project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Railway line between Bombay and Roha has already been commissioned. Line between Manga-