

Raids on LPG Agencies and Godowns

1247. **SHRI RAMSAGAR (Saidpur):**
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether a number of LPG agencies and their godowns were raided during the last six months for pilferage of gas and black marketing in cylinders;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them; and

(c) the number of complaints received against LPG agencies by various oil companies during the last six months about the behaviour or otherwise of the agency holders and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). During the period September, 1989-February, 1990, 25 LPG agencies/godowns were raided by the statutory authorities in different parts of the country. Depending upon the nature of the malpractice, cases have been lodged, wherever necessary, against the distributors

(c) During the said period, approximately 7,200 complaints were received by the oil companies against the LPG agencies about the misbehaviour or otherwise of the agency holders. All such complaints are investigated for taking appropriate action against the erring distributors in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

[*Translation*]

Conversion of Mhow-Varanasi and Mhow-Shahganj Rail Line

1248. **SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:** Will the Minister of **RAILWAYS** be pleased to state:

(a) the time by which the conversion of Mhow-Varanasi metre gauge railway line in North-Eastern Railway will be completed;

(b) the total expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the amount made available for the purpose so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal to include Mhow-Shahganj railway line also in this project; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The conversion of Mau-Varanasi MG to BG would be commissioned during 1990-91.

(b) Estimated cost of the conversion of Varanasi-Bhatni, entire section, into BG is Rs. 80.80 crores. Outlay expected upto end of 1989-90 is Rs. 58.86 crores. Outlay proposed for 1990-91 is Rs. 18.91 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to acute constraint of resources and heavy commitments for on-going gauge conversion projects.

Allotment of LPG and Petroleum Products Dealerships to Unemployed Youth

1249. **SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for giving LPG agencies and dealerships for petroleum products to unemployed youth in rural areas;

(b) if so, when it is proposed to be implemented; and

(c) whether these agencies are pro-

posed to be given at Tehsil and block levels also?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) There is no exclusive provision for giving such agencies/dealerships to unemployed youth in rural areas;

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

[English]

Criteria for LPG Supplies in Small Towns

1250. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for providing LPG supplies in small towns;

(b) whether any minimum number of gas connections are needed for establishing a gas agency;

(c) whether Government are aware that many small towns are experiencing difficulties for their gas supply because of the big distance of the nearest supply centre; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Presently the industry is covering towns with population of 20,000 and above in a phased manner for introduction of LPG, subject to such towns offering adequate potential for establishing an economically viable distributorship;

(b) While no minimum number of connections have been prescribed, certain ceilings for refill supplies per month by each distributor have been fixed on the basis of

population of cities and towns. Establishment of a new gas agency depends upon the feasibility of the new distributor reaching such ceilings in a phased manner;

(c) and (d). Both small and large markets are attached to the nearest bottling plant based on logistics/economics of operation. Adequate transport arrangements are made to ensure uninterrupted supplies. The distance between the town and the supply point (LPG Plant) is therefore not a constraint for smooth and uninterrupted supply of the product.

Import of Paraxylene

1251. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of imported paraxylene is not permitted because of scarcity of foreign exchange and availability of indigenous paraxylene;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether import of paraxylene has recently been permitted; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Currently paraxylene is on 'canalised list'. IPCL, Public Sector Company is a canalising agency and imports paraxylene based on requirement of DMT producers.

(c) and (d). IPCL has so far imported 42119 MT of paraxylene at cif value of US \$ 28.42 million so far in 1989-90. Recently IPCL, has ordered one parcel of 4000 tonnes of paraxylene, as per requirement of DMT manufacturers and to also build small buffer.