

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to regularise the services of ad-hoc workers working in Central public sector undertakings for the last several years; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). The information regarding ad-hoc/casual workers in public sector undertakings is not being maintained by the Ministry of Industry. Recruitment of such workers for casual, sporadic or intermittent nature of work falls within the purview of individual undertakings. However, the public sector undertakings have been instructed to stop the practice of engaging casual and temporary workers for permanent jobs.

[English]

Supply of LPG in North Goa

4324. PROF. GOPALRAO MAYEKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been short supply of LPG in North Goa district and the consumers are not getting the gas cylinders refilled even after two to three weeks of placing the order;

(b) if so, the reasons for the short and delayed supply and the remedial steps taken to remove the shortage and delay;

(c) whether Pedne and Sattari Talukas of North Goa district are worst affected for want of LPG agencies in the area; and

(d) if so, Government's plan to appoint more agents at these places?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d). Some shortage

in the supply of LPG refills was reported in certain locations of North Goa district on account of overall shortfall in the availability of bulk LPG, apart from operational and transportation bottlenecks. With the measures already taken, the situation has since normalised.

Presently the oil industry has no plans to appoint LPG distributorships at Pedne and Sattari Talukas of North Goa district.

[Translation]

Pay Revision of Public Sector Employees

4325. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the periodicity of pay revision in respect of employees of central public sector undertakings and the employees of Central Government respectively;

(b) whether the periodicity is not the same in both the cases; and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to constitute a standing committee to remove disparities in the pay scales of Central Government employees and the employees of public sector undertakings; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). While the employees of central public sector undertakings get their pay revision every 4/5 years based on agreements reached with their managements, Government employees get such revision at such appropriate intervals as decided by Government, based on the recommendations of the Pay Commission specifically set up therefor. In the last forty

years only four Pay Commissions have been appointed.

(c) No Sir.

(d) The Fourth Central Pay Commission had specifically examined this issue and have not recommended parity in pay scales between these two groups of employees.

[English]

Vacancies in Indian Airlines

4326. SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTAM DAS PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vacancies in the Indian Airlines at the end of 1989 (category-wise) stating the period for which these vacancies exist;

(b) the number of persons who are continuing after attaining the age of superannuation and the circumstances under which these persons are allowed to continue after their superannuation; and

(c) the reasons for not filling up the vacancies in the Indian Airlines and steps being taken by Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). As on the 1st of March, 1990, out of a sanctioned strength of 24,012, there were 2147 vacancies in Indian Airlines. No post was held by a superannuated person.

(c) The filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. At any point of time, vacancies exist due to various factors such as the

procedures to be followed, non-availability of suitable candidates etc.

Hindustan Cables Ltd.

4327. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Cables Ltd. is venturing into non-cable related areas;

(b) if so, the particulars of other fields the Company wants to enter; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No-Cable related fields the Company wants to enter and has proposals are manufacture of telecommunication equipment, electronic components and accessories, modules for use in telecommunication, equipment to tap non-conventional energy sources etc.

(c) As the scope for expansion in the area of telecommunication cables is limited, to maintain its growth the Company proposes to enter both cable and non-cable related areas.

Marketing of Toiletries

4328. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of swindling of unwary customers through marketing of various toiletries such as shampoos through advertising and unsubstantiated claims;

(b) whether Government media and newspapers are also being used and exploited by the promoters;