

(b) In view of the larger number of LPG consumers in the country, it is not practical to supply packed LPG directly to the consumers by the oil companies.

(c) and (d). By and large supplies of LPG by distributors are effected without any inconvenience to consumers. However, at times supplies to consumers are affected for reasons such as shortfall in the availability of LPG, transportation bottlenecks, industrial relations problems civil disturbances and other unforeseen events.

151 Bhopal Gas Tragedy
Union Carbide Case

3563. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the remarks of the Full Bench of the Supreme Court, dealing with the Union Carbide case, to the effect that the ICMR Report of April 1986 estimating the number of gas victims was never brought to the Court's notice when the quantum of interim relief was decided as part of the settlement between the company and the Government;

(b) if so, whether any revised estimated of the real number of affected persons, as per the ICMR report, has been made by Government; and

(c) the corresponding increase in the total amount of interim relief required?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). Review petitions, challenging the Settlement Order of 14th and 15th February, 1989 in the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster case are being heard by the Supreme Court of India and the matter is sub-judice.

[Translation]

32 Rail Gauge Conversion
Conversion of Chandrapur-Balaghat-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Tirodi Rail Lines

3154. SHRI KANKAR MUNJARE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for converting Chandrapur-Gondia-Balaghat-Jabalpur and Balaghat-Kantagi-Tirodi narrow gauge line into broad gauge line;

(b) if so, the details and the estimated cost thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard in view of the popular demand of giving priority to the development of backward area?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) to (c). The survey carried out in 1980 for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia N.G. line to B.G. has been updated to examine its viability as an alternative North-South route. The updated cost of conversion has been estimated at Rs. 185.35 crores with a negative rate of return. In the meantime, S.E. Railway has suggested a survey for conversion of Jabalpur-Gondia-Chanda Fort N.G. line to B.G. so that it can serve as an alternative North-South route. This survey has since been approved.

[English]

32 Industry
Dispersal of Industries Away From Metropolitan Towns and Cities

3155. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to implement the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 regarding the dispersal of industries