

of LPG to consumers, with delay mounting to as long as one month in several cases ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Backlogs in refill supplies arise due to inadequate availability of LPG, limited bottling capacity, and local operational problems.

(c) Schemes for increased LPG production augmentation of bottling and transportation capacity and related infrastructural facilities are under implementation.

Oil Exploration Programme

2181. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Government during the last three years for oil exploration programme ;

(b) the names of various organisations which were entrusted with this job ;

(c) whether the performance of these organisations were found to be satisfactory; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) :

(a) and (b) The Oil & Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Limited are engaged in oil exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country. Their plan expenditure during the last three years was as follows :

	(Rs. Crores)
1982-83	1475
1983-84	1711
1984-85	1960 (anticipated)

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The balance recoverable reserves increase between 1982 and

1984 by approximately 98 million tonnes ; self sufficiency in crude oil increased from 56% in 1982-83 to 69% at present.

Auto Telephone Exchange at Kotkapura (Punjab)

2182. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Auto Telephone Exchange had been sanctioned for Kotkapura Town (Punjab) ;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in setting up the Auto Telephone Exchange there ;

(c) whether any representation in this regard has been received by him ; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A bigger building for housing the main auto exchange is required to be constructed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) 1500 lines auto exchange equipment has been allotted for automatisation of existing manual exchange at Kotkapura and project estimate has been sanctioned to enable commencement of construction of building for housing the main automatic exchange.

Refund of Security Money by Andhra Pradesh Scooters Ltd.

2183. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Scooters Ltd. are not refunding the security money to the prospective buyers who are no more interested in the purchase of their scooter ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to ensure refund of security amount with necessary interest ?