

the main causes of the poor interest shown by the Indian firms; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to accommodate the Indian Companies rather than opting for foreign firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. This is a specialised job and is being undertaken by Indian entrepreneurs for the first time. As such the response is considered adequate.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The tenders were limited only for Indian entrepreneurs and thus the question of opting for foreign firms does not arise.

Foreign Collaboration Agreements for Production of Oil-Field Equipment

6525. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether oil industry has proposed that foreign collaboration agreements for production of oilfield equipment should be finalised only after consulting the user companies;

(b) if so, whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Oil India Ltd. which are the main buyers of such equipment, should compulsorily participate in the finalisation of these agreements; and

(c) if so, whether this decision would ensure that the equipment manufactured by Indian companies meet the oil companies' specifications ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) This suggestion has been made by Oil India Limited.

(b) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

Cooking Gas Connections in Kerala

6526. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether any step is being taken to give large number of cooking gas connections in all the districts of Kerala;

(b) whether the demand is being fully met; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken to meet the demands fully ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Re-lease of new LPG connections will be continued in Kerala during 1985-86 within the target of 17.50 lakhs for the country.

(b) and (c). Cochin Refinery being the primary LPG source for Kerala Markets, supplies were adversely affected following the fire in the Refinery in March, 1984. Rescue supplies were arranged from alternate sources and 70% demand of the customers could be met. These arrangements are being continued and customers, requirement is expected to be met in full as soon as production at the Cochin Refinery stabilises.

Upgradation of Post Offices in Pathanathitta District of Kerala

6527. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices upgraded in the Pathanathitta district of Kerala after the formation of this district and the places where they are located;

(b) whether telegraphic and other facilities are still not available in many of these upgraded Post Offices including the Post Office of Kadammnitha; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide these facilities in these Post Offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) 30.