

Opening of Diesel Pumps in Villages

2322. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has assessed the amount of extra diesel which the farmers have to waste in covering distance for getting fuel for their tractors from their field to nearest diesel pumps ;

(b) whether this quantity is very high ; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry proposes to open at least one diesel pump in every village to help farmers and to save wastage of diesel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The oil industry has not made any assessment of the diesel consumed by farmers in covering the distance to the retail outlet for obtaining diesel.

(c) Locations for opening of petrol/diesel retail outlets are decided on the basis of market potential and economic viability.

Replacement of Sangrur Telephone Change by Electronic Exchange

2323. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that Sangrur (Punjab) telephone exchange is working under heavy load and gets hot up very soon resulting in frequent breakdown ;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to replace the present telephone exchange by electronic exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No,

Sir. The telephone exchange at Sangrur is not over loaded and it is not getting heated up and it is not resulting in break downs. Moreover, the exchange is working generally satisfactory.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

Telephone Exchange in Tribula in Mavelikera, Kerala

2324. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the telephone exchange in Tribula in Mavelikera in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise, in view of reply to para (a) above.

Setting up of Coal Preparation Engineering Institute with Soviet Assistance.

2325. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some coal preparation engineering institutes with Soviet assistance ;

(b) if so, the names of the places where these new institutes are proposed to be set up ;

(c) whether one such institute is proposed to be set up at Talchar or any other coal bearing areas in Orissa ; and

(d) if so the steps taken to implement the above proposal ?