

concerned action to maximise the availability of power from the installed capacity, renovation and modernisation of thermal stations to improve their performance, timely completion of on-going projects, reduction of line losses, demand management and energy conservation.

Gas Leaks from Chemical Units in Thane, Maharashtra

368. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been several instances of gas leaks from chemicals units in Thane region of Maharashtra in September-October, 1985;

(b) if so, reasons thereof and the fatalities caused thereby; and

(c) whether chemical industries have been given specific norms for protecting workers and public against such hazards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The Government of Maharashtra have informed that there were two instances of gas leakage from Chemical Units in Thane region of Maharashtra in September-October, 1985.

(b) In both the cases, the leakage was from old cylinders lying in the factories. There was no fatality involved.

(c) To protect workers and public against the hazards, caused by leaking cylinders, there are provisions in Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981. Safety standards have also been laid down in the Schedules to the relevant rules under the Factories Act.

Short Supply of LPG Cylinders

369. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of LPG cylinder for domestic users as reported in the Indian Express of October 18, 1985; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to relieve this shortage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) There was shortage in LPG supplies in October, 1985 in certain markets in North India like Delhi, Meerut, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Jaipur, Saharanpur and Aligarh.

(b) The shortage was caused by temporary dislocation in road supplies following the finalisation of fresh transportation contract arrangements by Indian Oil Corporation. Bottling capacity in North India being inadequate in comparison to this areas requirements, the disruption in road movement led to the shortage. The following steps have been taken by IOC in this connection, apart from augmentation of bottling capacity in the Northern Region :

(i) the transportation problem has been resolved;

(ii) the bottling plants are operating on some holidays and for extended hours whenever possible; and

(iii) liberal release of second cylinders during the last few months.

Use of Night Air Mail Service

370. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether postal services are sought to be improved using night air mail service as reported in 'The Statesman' of 10 October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Vayudoot services would be made available for this purpose; and

(c) whether mail delivery would be improved in remote areas also as a result of this night air mail service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

(SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Vayudoot management has been approached for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Closing of Units Incurring Losses

371. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed closure of several loss-making units;

(b) if so, the criteria for choice of the units to be closed;

(c) whether the affected employees would be given alternative jobs; and

(d) the total number of units to be closed and the details of losses incurred and employees to be affected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) There is no such decision at present.

(b) to (d). In view of (a) above, (b), (c) and (d) do not arise.

Raising of Resources through Market Mechanism by Public Sector Units

372. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has given any directive to the public sector units under his Ministry to raise resources through the market mechanism; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). No directive has been issued for generation of resources by the Public Sector Undertakings through the market mechanism, at the conference with Chief Executives of the Public Sector Undertakings of the Department of Public Enterprises held in October, 1985 the need for reducing dependence on financial

support from Government for their operations was highlighted.

Stoppage of Facility of Second Gas Cylinder to Consumers

373. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI CHANTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the facility given by Indian Oil Corporation to supply two cylinders for LPG connection-holders in the past, has since been stopped;

(b) whether this policy has caused hardship to consumers; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to restart the facility of given two cylinders to such consumers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). Indian Oil Corporation had liberalised release of a second cylinder to existing customers from December 1984. With the onset of the present winter, when the demand for LPG goes up, and keeping in view the bottling capacity, IOC has temporarily restricted release of DBCs. Release of DBCs would be revived in the next few months.

Letters of Intent issued and converted into Licences

374. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise figures of Letters of Intent approved during the past three years, separately for the Central Public Sector, State Public Sector and the Private Sector in individual States;

(b) how many of them have been converted into Industrial Licences (State-wise) and how many of them have either been allowed to lapse or cancelled and how many of them have been renewed after the stipulated period of validity; and

(c) the details of letters of intent approved industry-wise during the said period ?