

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The villages Chaunaliya and Syauni in district Almora are not eligible for Long Distance Public Call Offices on subsidized basis under the existing policy.

#### Branch Post Offices in Almora District (U.P.)

3278. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places in Almora district in Uttar Pradesh where branch post offices are proposed to be opened during 1985-86 ;

(b) whether all the branch post offices sanctioned earlier for this district have been opened ; and

(c) if so, the names of the places where these have been opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) No branch post offices are proposed to be opened in Almora district of Uttar Pradesh during 1985-86.

(b) During 1984-85 also, no branch post office could be sanctioned in the district on account of the ban on creation of posts.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Opening of Petrol-Diesel outlets at Pithoragarh U.P.

3279. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal for opening a petrol-diesel retail outlet at Lohaghat in Pithoragarh district in Uttar Pradesh had been found feasible by his Ministry ;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Oil Corporation had held any interview for the selection of candidates for the purpose ;

(c) if so, whether this outlet has started functioning ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and when this outlet will start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c) and (d). The Oil Selection Board (North) has held interviews for this retail outlet and a Letter of Intent has been issued to the selected candidate. The outlet is expected to be commissioned in the next few months after completion of the prescribed formalities.

[English]

#### Expansion of Borivallee (Bombay) Telephone Exchange

3280. SHRI ANOOP CHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to open one more telephone exchange at Borivallee ;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof,

(c) whether there is any proposal to expand the present exchange of Borivallee (Bombay) ;

(d) if so, when ; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. One new exchange of 6000 lines capacity is proposed to be commissioned in 89-90 at Borivallee.

(c) to (e). Yes, Sir. Expansion work from 4,000 to 5,000 lines is already in progress for commissioning by May, 1986.

#### Increase in Commission Paid to LPG Distributors

3281. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : SHRI VISHNU MODI :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of LPG has gone up by 307 per cent from 1960 to 1985 ;

(b) if so, the reasons why the margin of distributors has not been increased ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give delivery charges to LPG distributors ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The price of LPG in 1971 at Delhi was Rs. 22.01 for a cylinder of 15 kg. against Rs. 57.62 as on date for a cylinder (14.2 kg).

(b) The commission allowed to LPG dealers was revised in 1981. Further the refill capacity to the dealer has been increased from time to time, the last being in October, 1985, to increase profitability of the dealership.

(c) and (d). The structure of the dealer's commission at present includes delivery charges also as an element.

#### Inducing Competition in Public Sector

3282. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the steps chalked out by Government to inject an element of competition in the public sector during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). The thrust of the Government is to improve the efficiency and productivity of the Public Enterprises which would naturally improve their competitive position.

#### Manufacturers of Zip Fasteners

3283. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the units manufacturing zip fasteners in the small scale sector are covered under the 20-Point Programme ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose

to de-reserve this industry to make room for big industrial houses ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) There have been representations that the Zip Industry should be de-reserved and the issue is under consideration.

(c) In the light of the reply given to (b) above, does not arise.

#### Clearance to New Power Projects

3284. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of power projects are delayed inordinately ;

(b) if so; whether any study has been made to ascertain the causes of this delay and its impact on the economy ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) whether any decision has been taken to clear the new power projects within a fixed time ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). There have been delays in completion of a number of power projects during construction. The main reasons for delays in commissioning have been identified which include inadequate availability of funds, weak project management, delay in placement of orders for equipment and civil works and unsatisfactory industrial relations etc.

The delay in commissioning of projects apart from leading to cost over-runs in the project also results in loss of generation with consequent impact on the economy. It is not practicable to quantify the exact amount of loss to the economy due to delay in commissioning of power projects.

(d) and (e). The time taken in clearance of new projects depends on a variety of factors including adequacy of investigations carried out, sufficiency of appropriate data and engineering details incorporated in the project report, and response from the project