

(c) the steps being taken by Government to stop the use of gas cylinders by Halwais in view of the fact that the domestic consumers are not getting gas connections for years together; and

(d) if no action is being taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The amount of subsidy is Rs. 13.05 per LPG cylinder.

(b) to (d) While LPG is supplied predominantly for use in the domestic sector, release of commercial connections to hospitals, educational institutions, hotels, restaurants and similar eating houses, including halwais, takes place. Such eating houses serve the common man and use of LPG there reduces the pressure on kerosene, a product that is substantially imported. Barring temporary restrictions for operational reasons, it is not proposed to stop release of commercial connections. The connections released to halwais constitute a negligible proportion of the 15 lakhs connections being released in a year.

*(English)*

**Purchase of saleable items by Consumers Cooperative Stores from Small Scale Industries.**

4060. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the list of group IV items and other groups of items exclusively reserved for Government purchase from small scale industries; and

(b) the action being taken to make it obligatory for the Consumers Cooperative Stores to purchase the saleable items from the small scale industries as far as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNA-CHALAM) : (a) A list of group IV items

and other groups of items exclusively reserved for purchase from small scale industrial units, Handicraft and Handloom sectors is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 2495/86].

(b) Government have not issued any instructions for the Consumer Cooperative Stores to purchase the saleable items from the small scale industries.

**Delay in supply of LPG by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited**

4061. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that "Bharat Gas" consumers of M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited in Delhi/New Delhi are receiving their LPG cylinder refills from their respective dealers/agencies after a delay of 8 to 10 days; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take so that the consumers may get the refills on the date of reporting their requirement of at least on the next day positively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) There was some backlog in supply of refills in Delhi/New Delhi, due to upsurge in demand in winter and certain operational problems including erratic functioning of the filling machines and weighing systems at Bharat Petroleum Corporation's bottling plant in Delhi.

(c) The Corporation has carried out urgent maintenance of these machines and is augmenting availability by getting supplies from Indore and Bombay.

**Setting up of natural gas power generator by Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board**

4062. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of natural gas in Andhra Pradesh by Oil and Natural Gas Commission will be able to meet the requirement for establishing a natural gas power generator by Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board; and

(b) if so, when the permission is likely to be accorded to Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board for establishing a natural gas power generator?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) & (b) As onshore and offshore fields are yet to be fully explored and production potential established, long-term commitments for supply of gas cannot be given at this stage.

**Transfer of 'Drugs' and 'Pharmaceuticals' to Health Ministry**

4053. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI :  
SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-  
GALAM :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to transfer the subjects "Drugs" and "Pharmaceuticals" to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as has been done in the case of the subject "Fertilisers" transferred to the user Ministry of Agriculture; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Post Offices in Purnea District of Bihar**

4064. SYED SHAHABUDDIN :  
Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Post Offices in Purnea District, Bihar as on 1 January, 1986 ;

(b) the number of mobile Post Offices in that District as on 1 January, 1986;

(c) the number of institutions/individuals licensed to undertake postal work on commission basis in that district as on 1 January 1986;

(d) the number of Gram Panchayats in that District without any postal facility as on 1 January, 1986; and

(e) the approved programme for expansion of postal facilities in that district during the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) :  
(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(e) The Circle-wise (and within a cricle and division-wise) programme of opening of rural post offices is decided on a year to year basis having regard to funds available in the Plan budget each year. However, in view of the ban on creation of posts, no new post offices have been opened so far under the Seventh Plan nor proposals finalised for 1986-87.

**Shortage and high price of Rifampicin**

4065. SHRI MANIK REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is shortage and high price for Rifampicin, an effective anti-T.B. drug;

(b) if so, the corrective steps proposed;

(c) whether the issue of licence for manufacture of Rifampicin has been applied for by any firms; and

(d) if so, present position thereof; and

(e) the total amount in foreign exchange spent for import of Rifampicin for the last three years ?