

under :

Production Line	Workforce employed	Likely date of phasing out	
		Commencement	Completion
A. Bangalore :			
1. Crossbar	2773	1987-88	1990
2. Strowger	4450	1989-90	1991*
B. Rae Barell :			
1. Strowger	4222	1989-90	1991
2. Crossbar (ICP)	2024	1994-95	1996*

*NOTE : Some production may continue for supply of spares etc.

No employee has so far been retrenched. It is proposed to absorb the employees likely to be rendered surplus in other production activities as far as possible which includes setting up of digital electronic switching factory at Bangalore.

Framing of Rules under Consumer Protection Act

170. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
DR. G. VIJAY RAMA RAO :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
DR. B.L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the rules will be framed by Government under the Consumer Protection Act, 1987;

(b) the reasons for delay in enforcing the Act; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to give publicity to the rights available to the consumers under this Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The rules for carrying out

the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 have to be framed by the Central as well as State Governments. The Central Government has framed the rules which will be enforced after the enforcement of the Act. Guidelines have been issued to States for framing the rules by them.

(b) The Act will be enforced after consulting the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

(c) The Government is making use of Doordarshan/AIR and news-media to create consumer awareness. National, Regional and State level seminars/workshops are organised to create consumer awareness.

Production of Natural Gas

171. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) total production of natural gas at present in the country;

(b) what would be the estimated production of natural gas by the end of 1989-90;

(c) Whether it is a fact that in North-Eastern region a concession has been given in gas price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) The production of natural gas in the country during 1985-86 was 22,50 MMCMD.

(b) By the end of 1989-90, it is at present estimated that the production would be about 40 MMCMD of natural gas.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) As per the decision of the Government w.e.f. 30.1.87, the price of onshore gas and gas at landfall points will be Rs. 1400/1000 M³; and for gas supplied along the HBJ pipeline the price will be Rs. 2250/1000 M³. However, for gas sold in North-Eastern Region States, the price would be Rs. 1000/1000 M³ subject to discounts upto Rs. 500/1000 M³ for individual cases on merit. The prices would be exclusive of royalties, taxes, duties and other statutory levies.

Security Deposit Towards LPG Cylinders

172. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased state :

(a) whether it is a fact that every consumer has to deposit a few hundred rupees as deposit towards L.P. Gas cylinder with the local distributing agency;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to allow interest to the consumers on their security deposit; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Apart from investment made on new cylinders/regulators while enrolling new customers, the oil industry has to plan, procure and maintain adequate equipment inventories. This involves a large capital outlay, besides recurring expenditure on inspection, testing, repairs, rejections and replacements, design, research and development. Also, oil companies do not charge any rental for the LPG equipment used by a consumer.

Reduction in Number and Status of Post Offices in Andhra Pradesh

173. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of post offices relating to different categories, such as Main Post Office, Sub-Post Office, ED Sub-Office, Branch Office, etc., district-wise in the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 1.1.85 and as on 1.1.1987; and

(b) the reasons for reduction in the number as well as status of the post offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections for Vijayawada City

175. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the plan to modernise the telecommunications system of Vijayawada City during the Seventh Plan period;