

(b) If so, the steps taken to prevent this practice.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Complaints in this regard have been received against few LPG distributors;

(b) Complaints received by the oil companies against distributors are investigated and wherever necessary, appropriate action (ranging from warning letters to termination of the distributorships) is taken against the erring distributors in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. For instance, during the year 1986-87, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited took action in respect of 37 complaints in this regard. Two LPG distributorships were terminated on grounds of proven irregularities, including overcharging the consumers on refill supplies.

Import of Automatic Message Accounting Equipment

4718. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited is importing automatic message accounting equipment;

(b) If so, at what cost;

(c) Whether comparable equipment is available in local market;

(d) If so, the cost of the equipment in the local market; and

(e) In case the cost in local market is lower, the purpose of import?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir, Letter of intent has been issued for Delhi Telephone Systems only.

(b) US \$ 3,789,425 (FOB)

(c) Indigenous equipment is under development. Order has been placed on three Indian Firms for indigenous development and supply equipment for Bombay Telephone System.

(d) and (e) Development orders have been placed on these firms @ Rs. 419.18 per line for strower & PC exchanges and Rs. 473.67 per line for C-400 type exchanges. The cost per line for the import is approx. Rs. 247/- (FOB). The cost of local equipment is not lower than the cost of import.

Cooking Gas Agencies in Bastar, Madhya Pradesh

4719. SHRI MANKURAM SODI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The places where licence for cooking gas agency have been given in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh, the number of the gas connections given to each agency and the number of the applicants of the waiting list in each agency; and

(b) Whether applications for allotting gas agencies from other cities in Bastar district have also been received and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) The required information is given below: