

Among these are 100% depreciation for income tax purposes, exemption from excise duty, concessional rates of custom duties and soft loans for users. Subsidy is also provided on solar lanterns, domestic lighting units, water pumping systems, solar stills and solar dryers.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

LPG Agencies

2274. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide reservation to the backward classes in the allotment of LPG agencies and petrol-diesel retail outlets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):
(a) to (c). The existing policy reservation for different sections of the society as under :

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	-	25%
Physically Handicapped (PH)	-	7 1/2%
Defence (DC)	-	7 1/2%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	-	3%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	-	2%
Open (O)	-	55%

There is no reservation exclusively for backward classes. They are availing of the opportunities under the existing categories.

[English]

Million Well Scheme

2275. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of wells constructed in the country particularly in Gujarat during the last three years under the Million Well Scheme, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to boost the programme particularly in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of wells constructed under Million Wells Scheme during

the last three years are as under :

Year	Wells constructed All India (Including Gujarat)	Gujarat
1993-94	151673	5609
1994-95	158780	6407
1995-96	142462	4107

In addition 160453 wells all over India and 6299 wells in Gujarat are under construction.

(b) The Million Wells Scheme which was a sub-scheme of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is now being implemented as an independent scheme w.e.f. 1.1.1996. The progress is being closely monitored and follow up action taken, where necessary for effective implementation of the Scheme.

[Translation]

Dhaulti Ganga Power Projects

2276. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NHPC has acquired the agriculture land of local rural people for Dhaulti Ganga Power Project in District Pithoragarh of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a provision to employ these people whose land has been acquired for the purpose;

(c) if so, the number of such people has been appointed so far;

(d) whether compensation has been paid to the farmers whose land has been acquired; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (e). For construction of Dhaultiganga Hydro-electric Project in District Pithoragarh of Uttar Pradesh, the total land requirement is 177.653 ha., out of which 24.57 ha. is agricultural land. The National Hydro-electric Power Corporation has requested the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to initiate the process of land acquisition and a compensation package including employment of persons whose land is acquired and cash compensation for the land shall be decided in consultation with the State Government.

[English]

Employment

2277. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since formulated

any strategy to provide gainful employment to the employable by the end of the century; and

(b) if so, the details of the strategy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b). The Eighth Plan envisages a strategy for achieving the goal of near full employment situation in the country as a whole by the year 2002. The goal is sought to be achieved by accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities on the basis of faster growth of employment-intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities such as agriculture, agro and rural industries, rural infrastructure, small and decentralised manufacturing sector, urban informal sector and services. New Schemes like Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), have been introduced in the Eighth Plan period besides continuing the on-going schemes like IRDP, JRY and NRY. These schemes and strategies will be reviewed for the formulation of the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

LPG Cylinder

2278. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the per kilogram price of the LPG consumer gas cylinder and commercial gas cylinder separately and the quantity of gas in each cylinder;

(b) whether there is any established system to ensure the weight and minimum price of the gas cylinder being supplied by the private gas agencies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The ex-storage point per kg. of domestic and commercial LPG excluding excise duty and local levies are Rs. 6.90 and Rs. 13.90 respectively. The quantity of LPG in domestic cylinder is 14.2 kgs and in commercial cylinder is 19 kgs.

(b) and (c). Under the parallel marketing scheme, the private parties have to conform to the provisions of the amended LPG Control Order of August, 93, the applicable provisions of Gas Cylinders Rules, 1981 and the Weights and Measures Act. However, parallel marketeers have been allowed to market LPG at market determined prices.

[English]

Supply of Power to U.P.

2279. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India

Ltd. is reluctant to supply power to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b). Power to Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board was regulated by Powergrid from 14.5.1996 to 14.6.1996, on account of non payment of outstanding dues of POWERGRID by UPSEB. The supply was restored soon after a part payment was made by UPSEB and a commitment given to pay the balance amount soon.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Kahalgaon Power Project in Bihar

2280. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the NTPC has acquired land for its Kahalgaon Power Project in Distt. Bhagalpur of Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision to employ the dependents of land oustees in those projects for which the land has been acquired; and

(d) if so, the number of land oustees and the number of people employed in this project so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Bihar Government has acquired land for the Kahalgaon Super Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation.

(b) A total of 3123.915 acres of land was acquired in Bhagalpur District and 233.550 acres of land in District Godda.

(c) Subject to requirement/vacancies and suitability, preferences is given to Project Affected Persons in recruitment.

(d) The total number of land oustees is 3587 out of which 300 land oustees/their nominee has been employed in the project.

[English]

Acute Shortage of LPG

2281. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the acute