

Maharashtra float was rejected for the first time during the last 30 years;

(b) if so, furnish full facts of the matter and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the floats of other States have been rejected and details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the rejection of the Maharashtra float was totally unjustified as per the guidelines and the procedure and details of protest lodged, if any, by the Government of Maharashtra and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (d). The proposals for this tableaux—received from State Governments, Administrations of Union Territories, Central Ministries and other organisations—are considered by a Committee which includes eminent person in the field of art. The selection of tableaux for display in the Republic Day Parade is made primarily on consideration of merit.

The proposal received from the Government of Maharashtra was considered by the Committee, more than once but it was not found possible to include the tableaux in this year's Parade, keeping in view its quality and the availability of better tableaux.

This is neither the first time that the tableaux of a particular State was not found acceptable, nor even the first such occasion for Maharashtra, nor was Maharashtra alone among States whose tableaux were not found acceptable this year. Proposals of 10 States and 3 Union Territories could not be accepted.

The reasons for which various tableaux were not approved were explained by experts to the representatives of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. There was no occasion for any protest being received from Maharashtra or any other State.

Domestic Gas Supply Agencies functioning in Rural and Urban Areas in Madhya Pradesh

2010. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of domestic gas supply agencies functioning in the urban and rural areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) per annum supply of cylinders to those agencies for supply to consumers;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the supply of cylinders to make its availability in more places both in urban and rural areas in near future; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) together have 24 distributors to market cooking gas in Madhya Pradesh. The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) is marketing cooking gas in this State through their distributors who have 16 agents/sub-agents. The Visakh Marketing Unit of HPCL has eight such agencies.

(b) The total annual supply of gas cylinders to the consumers in Madhya Pradesh is 8.78 lakhs approximately.

(c) and (d). IOC have immediate plans to introduce LPG marketing at Chattarpur. On the basis of availability of additional LPG through imports or commissioning of new facilities, it will be possible for oil companies to extend marketing of LPG to more urban/rural areas from around 1980 onwards based on the following considerations;

(i) anticipated customer potential;

(ii) nearness to the market from the source of supply;

- (iii) availability of safe/commercial mode of transport;
- (iv) maximum utilisation of distribution equipment; and
- (v) viability of operation.

Cooking Gas facility in Himachal Pradesh

2012. SHRI DURGA CHAND: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 326 on 21st November, 1978 regarding marketing of cooking gas at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh and state:

(a) the progress so far made regarding introducing of marketing of LPG (Cooking Gas) at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) whether the market scheme has since been introduced in the city; and

(c) if not, by when the scheme will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) The interviews for selection of candidates for LPG distributorship at Dharamshala, in Himachal Pradesh, are proposed to be held by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited in the third week of March, 1979.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) After selection of the candidate a minimum period of 4 to 6 months would be required for providing necessary godown/showroom facilities etc., for commissioning a distributorship at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.

Steel and Iron Factories at Nayagarh Paradeep

2013. SHRI PABITRA MOHAN PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to establish steel and iron factories at Nayagarh (Keonajhar District, Orissa) and Paradeep (Orissa);

(b) whether Government for non-complying the demands of the Orissa people have tried to fulfil the desires of the Orissa people to develop, expand and extend the Rourkela Steel Factory;

(c) if so, to what extent the expansion and extension of the Rourkela Steel Factory has been made; and

(d) the number of extra employees that may be required for expansion and extension and whether there is definite reserved provision for employment of the Oriya-people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI KARIA MUNDA): (a) Government have been holding discussions with countries such as USSR, Romania, West Germany, U. K. and Japan, in the context of considering the feasibility of setting up three shore-based steel plants, and the nature of assistance which can be provided by them for establishing the projects, location of which would be based on techno-economic considerations.

(b) and (c). At present no proposal is under Government's consideration about further expansion of Rourkela Steel Plant. However, certain facilities to cover modifications, imbalances, diversification of products, modernisation and replacements are continuously being put up at the Plant, such as installation of facilities for production of Cold rolled grain oriented and non-oriented sheets.

(d) In view (b) and (c) above, does not arise for the present.