

through the Rural Electrification Corporation to accord higher priority to the electrification of new areas.

Strategy to Counter Fly Ash

192 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the Department of Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council has discovered the means to counter the threat posed by the over 60 million tonnes of fly ash produced annually by the country's 75 odd thermal power plants burning coal to serve business opportunities,

(b) if so, the means to counter fly ash threat by the technology mission;

(c) the measures proposed to enforce them in the several sectors of social and economic importance; and

(d) the time by which this strategy is likely to be put to use?

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 (c) Ministry of Science and Technology and Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) are implementing a project Technology Project in Mission Mode (TPMM) "Selected Technology Projects for Fly Ash Disposal and Utilisation" for gainful utilisation of fly ash in the identified thrust areas of social and economic importance namely Fly Ash Characterisation, Hydraulic Structures Handling and Transportation, Agriculture related Studies and Applications, Ash Ponds and Dams, Reclamation of Ash Ponds for Human Settlement Road and Embankments, Underground Mine Fills and Research Projects

(d) The above project was approved during 1994 and shall be completed in four years.

LPG Agencies

193 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) the criteria fixed for the allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies

(b) the number of applications received by the Government for the allotment of petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies during the last three years, state-wise,

(c) the detail of the persons who have been allotted the petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies during the above period,

(d) the number of applications out of these rejected during the above period, and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU) : (a) to (e). A large number of applications are received regularly for allotment of dealerships/distributorships on compassionate grounds under discretionary powers of the Government. The Hon. Supreme Court of India through its order dated 31.3.1995 has approved the following guidelines for allotment of dealerships/distributorships under discretionary quota on compassionate grounds

- (i) Dependent of a person who has made supreme sacrifice for the nation, but has not been properly rehabilitated so far
- (ii) Member of a family which has been a victim of unforeseen circumstances like terrorist attack, earthquake, floods, etc.
- (iii) Physically handicapped person
- (iv) Defence/para-military/police personnel; other Central/State Government employees, who are permanently disabled on duty
- (v) Immediate next of kin, namely widow, parents, children of those who lost their lives in abnormal circumstances
- (vi) Individual case of extreme hardship, which in the opinion of Government are extremely compassionate and deserve sympathetic consideration in view of the special circumstances of the case at the given time
- (vii) Eminent professionals like outstanding sportsmen, musicians, literateurs, etc. and women of high achievement, in distress
- (viii) The number of discretionary allotments should not ordinarily exceed 10% of the average annual marketing plan, of which allotments of retail outlets for petroleum products should not normally exceed 5%.

The discretionary allotments will be made to a candidate subject to the following general conditions:

- (1) He/She should be a citizen of India
- (2) He/She or any of his/her following close relatives (including step relatives) should not already hold a dealership of petroleum products of any oil company
 - (i) Spouse
 - (ii) Father/Mother
 - (iii) Brother
 - (iv) Son/Daughter-in-law

During the last three years 170 retail outlets and 136 LPG distributorships were allotted under discretionary powers of the Government.