

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) and (b) Petrol is available on a free sale basis and no monthly allocation is made.

Monthly State-wise allocations of High Speed Diesel Oil are made at 15% growth rate over the actual sales made in the corresponding month of last year. These allocations are only for the purpose of planning the movement of the product, since there is no restriction on sale of High Speed Diesel oil and the demand is being met in full by the oil companies.

The requirement of kerosene oil of various States and Union Territories is determined on the basis of their historical allocations/sales and 5% annual growth rate over such allocations/sales for the corresponding months. Taking into account the overall availability of the product, movement capacity etc; monthly allocations are made. Besides the regular monthly allocations, *ad-hoc* allocations to meet specific situations, like flood, drought, festivals, etc. are also made when necessary and justified.

Statements I, II and III showing the sales of petrol (MS), allocations/sales of High Speed Diesel oil (HSD) and allocations/sales of kerosene oil (SKO) made to Karnataka during the period from 1st January, 1980 to 31st December, 1983 respectively are laid on the table of the House. [Placed in library. See No. LT-6558/83]

It will be seen that actual supply/sales effected almost match the allocations made including *ad-hoc* allocations.

Opening of P.C.O.S. in Karnataka

9745. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have fixed some targets regarding the establishment of public call offices during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the number of public call offices proposed to be opened in different States, district-wise;

(c) the number of PCO's proposed to be opened in different districts of Karnataka; and

(d) the progress made so far in implementing the above scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. A target of providing 1500 Long Distance Call Offices through out the country has been fixed.

(b) The number of Long Distance Public Call Offices proposed to be opened in different Circles is yet to be finalised.

(c) The number of Long Distance Public Call Offices proposed to be opened in Karnataka Circle is yet to be finalised.

(d) Seven Long Distance Public Call Offices have so far been opened in Karnataka Circle in the current financial year.

Diversification of depreciation allowance leading sickness of Units

9746. **SHRI AJIT BAG:** Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one of the main reasons for the sickness of units is the diversification of funds accumulated under the head 'depreciation allowance';

(b) if so, the remedial action being taken by Government in this respect; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There are various reasons for sickness of units but Government are not aware that diversion of the amount of depreciation provision on fixed assets is one of the main reasons therefor.

(b) and (c) There is no legal requirement under the Companies Act for companies to set aside the amount (s) provided from time to time in the books of accounts by way of depreciation on fixed assets as a specific fund and for its use for any specified purpose (s). The utilisation of the depreciation provision depends on the needs for circumstances of each company and is largely a matter of internal policy of its management. In view of this position the question of taking and any remedial action does not arise.

Committee of power experts and manufacturers to draw standards for small Hydel Equipment

9747. SHRI M.V. CHANDRA SHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of power experts and manufacturers will be set up to draw standards for small hydel equipment;

(b) if so, whether the Central Board of Irrigation and Power has begun action to constitute the Committee in pursuance of this officially sponsored seminar on small hydro stations;

(c) what will be the cost per K.W. of installation; and

(d) what will be the main functions of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Irrigation and power has initiated action for constituting the Committee with Member, Hydro Electric, Central Electricity Authority as its Chairman. The main functions of the Committee would be to standardise the specifications as well as the equipment required for the small hydro stations to the extent possible.

The cost of Small Hydro installations varies from site to site. The cost is mainly governed by the topographical features, size of the installation, dischar-

ge and head available at a particular site.

ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम, राजस्थान द्वारा नये कनेक्शनों का बन्द किया जाना

9749. श्री चतुर्भुज : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम राजस्थान में धनाभाव के कारण पहले से विद्युतीकृत ग्रामों को नये कनेक्शन देना बन्दकर दिया है यदि नहीं, तो ग्रामीण विद्युतीकरण निगम, राजस्थान द्वारा लगाये गये प्रतिबन्ध को समाप्त कर योजना के अनुसार किसानों को नये कनेक्शन न देने के क्या कारण और आपत्ति है ; और

(ख) विद्युतीकृत ग्रामों के सभी आवेदन कर्ताओं को नये कनेक्शन देने में क्या आपत्ति है जिसमें कुछ भी व्यय नहीं होता है जबकि नये ग्रामों का विद्युतीकरण करने में केन्द्र और राज्य सरकार की भारी राशि व्यय होती है ?

ऊर्जा मंत्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री चन्द्र शेखर सिंह) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Safety Campaign by Petroleum Companies

9750. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some petroleum companies have launched safety campaign to create consumer awareness among the LPG users ;

(b) if so, the names of the companies/corporations which have taken steps in this regard; and