

Installation of Telephone Exchanges

1109. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges installed in different parts of the country in 1982-83;

(b) whether Government have a proposal to increase the number of new telephone exchanges in 1983-84;

(c) if so, the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be installed in 1983-84; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in different places of Orissa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL) : (a) 732

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Subject to availability of materials and financial resources, 845 new telephone exchanges are planned to be set up during 1983-84.

(d) About 30.

**Waiting List for L.P Gas in Delhi/
New Delhi**

11060. SHRI ANWAR AHMAD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of persons in the waiting list for new single LPG connections in Delhi/New Delhi and whether Government propose to issue orders immediately that double gas connections may not be given till such time all persons in the waiting list for new single gas connections; are given connections if not, the reasons there for;

(b) whether it is obligatory under any law that a person to whom a new gas connection is given should purchase gas stove also from the same agency from which he has been asked to take gas cylinder; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to check the gas agency holders from compelling the customers to purchase gas stove etc. from their agency only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) As on 31.3.1983 the number of customers on the waiting lists in Delhi/New Delhi was 4,59,465. It has been ensured that the release of second cylinder does not in any way affect the normal consumer enrolment programmes embarked upon by the oil industry; hence there is no proposal under consideration to issue orders to discontinue the release of second cylinder.

(b) and (c) The customer is at liberty to buy a gas stove of his choice either from the dealer or in the open market. Under Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969/Regulations, a prospective customer in whose favour a gas connection is released can purchase gas stove of ISI mark from any agency, including the LPG distributor, through whom gas connection has been released. Message to this effect is printed on each Intimation Letter sent to new customer and similar message is also displayed prominently in gas distributor's show-room. The oil companies have warned the LPG distributors that should there be any complaint in this regard, penal action would be taken against them.

Drilling in Tripura and West Bengal.

11061. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have seen a news item appearing in the "National Herald" dated 12.4.83 under the caption "Indo-Soviet economic panel to meet in May"; and

(b) the suggestions put forth by the experts of the team about drilling in Tripura and West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes Sir,