

developed by the Institute of Gas Technology to produce gas from coal in pressurised fluidised bed system employing ash agglomeration technique.

No decision has yet been taken on this.

**Setting Up of L. P. G. Bottling Plant at Mangalia near Indore by HPCL,**

4081. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a modern L. P. G. bottling plant is to be set up at Mangalia, near Indore by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd ;

(b) if so, the proposed production capacity and layout of this plant ; and

(c) the progress made so far in respect of this plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) The Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited has commissioned a bottling plant with a capacity of 25000 MTPA at Mangalia (near Indore) on June, 25, 1984.

#### Bonded Labour in the Country

4082. SHRI R. N. RAKESH :

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN :

SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news items appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 30 July, 1984 wherein it has been pointed out by the United Nations that there are 80 to 100 million persons in India who live as bonded labour at present ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove this evil from the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI DHARMAVIR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Attention of the Government has been drawn to the Article which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 30th July, 1984 wherein the Anti-Slavery Society of Britain is quoted to have alleged that there are 80 to 100 million bonded labourers in India at present.

(c) Government is not aware of the basis on which the Anti-Slavery Society has indicated that there are 80 to 100 million bonded labourers in India. Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the responsibility for identification, release and rehabilitation of bonded labourers entirely with the State Government concerned, who conduct periodic surveys through their existing agencies for identification of bonded labourers. Government, therefore, goes by the figures of bonded labourers as reported by the State Governments as they represent the actual number of physically identified bonded labourers. As per the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and freed as on 31.5.1984 was 1,66,266 out of which 1,26,395 have been rehabilitated.

#### Telephone Facilities in Thane and Raigad Districts of Maharashtra

4083. SHRI J. S. PATIL :

SHRI BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2765 on 13 March, 1984 regarding telephone facilities in Thane and Raigad Districts of Maharashtra and state ;

(a) the present position of various expansion programmes of the telephone exchanges mentioned in the above referred question ;

(b) the specific reasons for the delay in implementing the expansion programmes ;

(c) when these various expansion schemes in hand or those already sanctioned and