

(e) the number of applications received from Gujarat for the opening of new SKO/LDO dealerships; and

(f) the action taken and the target fixed for 1999 and 2000 for the opening of new dealerships there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) At present 674 SKO/LDO dealerships are in operation in Gujarat.

(b) The quantity of kerosene allocated to Gujarat during the last three years is indicated below :

1995-96	-	806280 M.T.
1996-97	-	826562 M.t.
1997-98	-	849378 M.T.

Petrol and diesel are not allocated to SKO/LDO dealerships. However, there is no restriction on supply of petrol/diesel from the retail outlets.

(c) and (d) Some complaints are received from time to time against SKO/LDO dealerships. In established cases of malpractice, suitable penal action is taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines against the erring dealers.

(e) Eight SKO/LDO dealerships are pending for commissioning in the State of Gujarat from the approved Marketing Plans.

(f) No target has been fixed for setting up SKO/LDO dealerships in Gujarat. The actual commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships depends on various factors such as number of locations advertised, number of applications received, number of interviews conducted by the Dealer Selection Boards, etc. One Dealer Selection Board for Gujarat has already been constituted for making selection of dealers.

[Translation]

Indian Penal Code

2709. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the provision of regarding anticipatory bail under the Indian Penal Code is being misused by the criminals; and

(b) if so, the step proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) Provision for granting anticipatory bail is provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and not in the Indian Penal Code. Under the provisions for anticipatory bail in the Code of Criminal Procedure (Section 438), the Court may give directions in the light of the facts of the particular case. In the case of Balchand Jain vs. State of M.P. (AIR 1977 SC 366), the Supreme Court has laid down that the power under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure is of an extraordinary character and must be exercised sparingly and in exceptional cases only.

2. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 9.5.1994 seeks to amend section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to the effect that the power to grant anticipatory bail should be exercised by the court after taking into consideration *inter-alia*, the nature and gravity of the accusation, the antecedents of the applicant and the possibility of the applicant to flee from justice. The amendment also proposes that the courts may give notice to the Public Prosecutor and the Superintendent of Police while considering the application for anticipatory bail. The presence of the applicant seeking anticipatory bail shall be obligatory if on an application made to it by the Public Prosecutor, the Courts consider such presence necessary on the interest of justice.

Security to VIPs

2710. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Intelligence Bureau is strongly opposing the idea of reducing the security of various very important persons;

(b) if so, the points of discontent; and

(c) the steps taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Purchase of Paper

2711. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Super Bazar/NCCF/Kendriya Bhandar are purchasing paper from sources other than the Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to direct the institutions to make purchase from Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd., directly or their authorised distributors in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Super Bazar, Delhi, the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India (NCCF) and Kendriya Bhandar they are purchasing their requirement of paper from sources other than the Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd., as these organisations supply papers to the Govt. Departments as per their choice, specifications and requirements. The Super Bazar has informed that though they had approved M/s. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. to supply various kinds of paper but the terms of supply offered by them were not found suitable to Super