

*[English]***Supply of LPG**

3790. SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of demand, supply and consumption of LPG cylinders in Orissa at present;

(b) whether there is acute shortage of LPG cylinders in some parts of Cuttack, Angal and Jagatsinghpur of Orissa and Bihar;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the supply position in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The LPG sales during 1997-98 were about 50 TMT in Orissa.

(b) and (c) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU oil companies in the State of Orissa and Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlogs develop due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the productions sources etc., oil companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs. Presently there is no LPG backlog in the States of Bihar and Orissa as reported by oil companies.

(d) Plans have been drawn for higher availability of LPG by increasing the capacity of existing production sources, putting up new plants and higher imports through existing and new facilities.

Reduction of Customs Duty

3791. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to FACT (Cochin);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the Fertilisers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) has suffered heavy loss due to the reduction of Customs Duty on caprolactum; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tide over the present situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) to (d) FACT has submitted a proposal seeking *inter-alia* moratorium on payment of interest for a period of two to three years on Government loans taken for the ammonia replacement project and for rescheduling of repayment of the principal.

The company has earned profit up to the year 1997-98. However, during 1998-99 (up to Oct. 98), it has reported loss which is ascribed amongst other things due to reduction of basic customs duty on caprolactum.

The financial performance of FACT during the past few years are as under:

(Rs. Crore)	
Year	Profit/Loss
1995-96	76.76
1996-97	61.78
1997-98	53.94
1998-99 (up to Oct. 98)	(-) 78.99 (Prov.)

The company has requested for enhancing the basic customs duty on caprolactum, which has not been found to be tenable.

Hidings of Militants in Bangladesh

3792. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the insurgent groups have made their hidings in hilly areas of Bangladesh adjacent to Indo-Bangladesh border and spreading their activities in Tripura;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government so far on the requests made by the Government of Tripura for