

(c) if so, the other steps taken by the Government to check the misuse of domestic LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Companies do not have any established instance of motor cars being driven with domestic LPG all over the country including the State of Karnataka. However, Research and Development Organisations may use LPG as automotive fuel for experimental purpose. So far, the use of LPG as automotive fuel in vehicle is prohibited by Motor Vehicles Act, and the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Restriction on use) Order, 1974. With a view to reduce pollution caused by fuels like petrol and diesel, which are currently in use, particularly in large polluted cities, the Government is in the process of making amendments to the existing Acts, Rules and the Regulations to permit the use of LPG in the automobile sector. Action is taken by Public Sector Oil Companies against diversion of domestic LPG for other uses, wherever found and established.

Medical Facility to P and T Pensioners

2794. SHRI VITHAL TUPE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether P and T pensioners at Pune, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Jabalpur and Lucknow are getting Indoor Medical Treatment facility through P and T dispensaries;

(b) if so, whether these pensioners are not getting CGHS facility at these stations;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Department of Post is not ready to transfer P and T dispensaries to CGHS, if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the recommendations No. 140-15 of the Vth Pay Commission regarding extending the Indoor Facility to P and T pensioners had been accepted by the Government;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor, indicating the present position regarding the Indoor Treatment to P and T Pensioners; and

(g) the reasons for making discrimination between P and T Pensioners and other Central Government Pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) At these stations P&T Pensioners are eligible for outdoor treatment from P&T Dispensaries. Hence they are not provided medical treatment through CGHS, as Ministry of

Health & Family Welfare does not permit CGHS facility for those pensioners, who during their service period availed treatment from P&T Dispensaries only.

(d) The question of merger of P&T Dispensaries with the CGHS at these five places where examined but could not be agreed to. However, it is informed by the Director (CGHS) that the existing CGHS infrastructure is not able to cope up with the extra load without diluting its quality of services.

(e) to (g) The matter is presently under consideration in consultation with the Department of Telecommunications and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

[Translation]

Communication System in Ladakh

2795. MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI, AVSM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to link Ladakh with latest communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the estimated amounts to be incurred there on ; and

(d) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(i) There is a proposal to execute a joint project by the Department of Telecommunications and Ministry of Defence to connect Leh with Srinagar Via Kargil to provide reliable media. The project is, however yet to be approved by the concerned Ministries.

(ii) In addition to the above, it has been planned to provide MCPC-VSAT system at 8 stations, namely, Pankhar, Sankoo, Tringspoon, Sukerbachan, Nimu, Batalika, Nyoma and Saspol during next financial year 1999-2000. Apart from the above there is also a proposal to provide IDR facility at Kargil and Leh in Ladakh region during 1999-2000.

(c) The estimated amount for the project at (a) and (b) (i) above, is Rs. 11 Crores (approximately) and for (ii) the estimated amount of the project is Rs. 5 Crores (approximately).

(d) (i) The project of providing optical fibre link is likely to be completed in two years after approval of the project.