

(e) There is no such proposal. In case of emergency blood is to be arranged from the nearest Blood Bank.

(f) It is for the State authorities to decide about the need for opening of new blood banks in their respective States.

Requirement of LPG for Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

2808. SHRI DARGOA PRASAD SAROJ :
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

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

(a) the estimated monthly requirement of LPG for Lalganj district in Uttar Pradesh and Darbhanga district in Bihar at present and the supply position thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the full requirement of LPG in the said district with details thereof;

(c) whether rural area of the districts are being neglected in supplying LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures propose to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

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) and (b) The LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU Oil Companies in different districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlog develops due to law and order problems, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production 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 Sundays and Holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to limited availability of LPG from indigenous sources and possible imports, so far the existing marketing plans have been made mainly covering towns having a population of 20000 and above. However, LPG had been introduced in certain environmentally fragile areas and hilly areas below 20000 population also to protect the environment and prevent deforestation.

With the increasing non-availability of traditional fuels and higher availability of LPG, increasing popularity of LPG as cooking fuel due to its convenience in use and to prevent further deforestation, the Government has decided to commence marketing of LPG in the rural areas also, by planning and taking action to open LPG distributorships for supply of LPG in rural areas, on the following basis :-

- i) To cover all urban location with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.
- ii) All urban locations having population of 5000 and above should be surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms. radius.
- iii) Cluster villages within 15 Kms radius of nucleus village having a population of 10,000 and above, to be surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the plan depending upon the viability.
- iv) Villages within 15 Kms radius towns having populations of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorship. While identifying rural locations contiguous to these towns, it should be ensured that adequate number of LPG by rural distributorships in urban areas.
- v) All VIP references should be surveyed for development of LPG distributorships by including the potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

Based on the above criteria, Oil Industry has identified 1285 urban/rural and 401 exclusively rural locations in the country for servicing the rural areas under the 1996-98 Marketing Plan.

[Translation]

Ban on the Use of Plastic Bags

2809. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government have imposed ban on use of re-cycled plastic carry bags and not on the virgin plastic carry bags in States of Haryana; Punjab and Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether there is any proposal to ban the same in other States as well;

(d) if so, the details thereof ;

(e) the manner in which Government propose to rehabilitate the people associated with the industry of re-cycling of plastic bags;

(f) whether the Government have also considered the use of waste coloured/white polythene carry bags; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) :
(a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued draft rules entitled "Recycled Plastics Usage Rules" on 20th November 1998 inviting objections from the public within a period of sixty days. The rules propose prohibition on usage of carry bags and containers made of recycled plastics for storing, carrying or packing foodstuffs. The rules do not prohibit use of virgin plastic carry bags and are applicable to the whole of India.

(e) There is no proposal to completely ban use of plastic bags. Therefore, question of rehabilitation of people associated with this industry does not arise.

(f) and (g) The draft rules prescribe certain conditions of reprocessing and recycling of carry bags which is to be undertaken in accordance with Indian Standards IS 14534 : 1998 entitled "Guidelines for Recycling of Plastics".

[English]

Primary Health Centres in Tribal Areas

2810. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain primary Health Centres of tribal areas are virtually closed as a result of which the tribal people are in a hapless condition;

(b) if so, whether Government have a plan to revive such Primary Health Centres;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the time by which these centres will be revived; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI):
(a) to (d) There were 3194 Primary Health Centres in tribal areas as on 31.12.97 as against 3090 on 31.12.96.

Government is, however, aware of the need to improve Primary Health Care services in tribal areas. The position is being reviewed from time to time and the State Governments are requested to improve the Primary Health Care services in rural and tribal areas. The Government proposes to introduce a special tribal Reproductive and Child Health Programme with assistance from the World Bank.

Customs Duty on Private Import of Kerosene

2811. SHRI ABHATSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI D. S. AHIRE :
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

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

(a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has urged the Government to increase custom duty on the private import of Kerosene to check adulteration of diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the number of cases of adulteration of Diesel detected during this year;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government for imposing punishment on those found indulging in the adulteration ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

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) No, Sir .

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Oil Marketing Companies carry out regular inspections/ surprise checks of retail outlets to check adulteration and other malpractices. Also special drives are launched by Oil Companies from time to time and action is taken in line with Marketing Discipline Guidelines/Dealership Agreement During April, 1998 to January, 1999, 135 cases of adulteration were detected. The revised Marketing Discipline Guidelines came into effect from 12.5.1998. The punishment for adulteration was made more stringent by including imposition of monetary fines on erring retail outlet dealers. However, Delhi High Court has stayed the operation of above guidelines. Therefore action is being taken in line with Dealership Agreement.

Computerization of Post Offices

2812. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of fully computerised post offices at present in the country State-wise ;

(b) the number of post offices proposed to be computerised in the country during 1999-2000, State-wise; and

(c) the estimated funds allocated for the purpose during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) At