

present the Parliament Street HPO, New Delhi is the only fully computerised post office in the country.

(b) The annual plan for the year 1999-2000 is yet to be approved.

(c) A sum of Rupees seven crores is expected to be allocated during the year 1999-2000 for computerisation of post offices.

[Translation]

Setting up of LPG outlets at Block Level

2813. SHRI RIZWAN ZAHEER KHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to set up L.P.G. outlets at block level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard in the country ?

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) LPG distributorships are opened at feasible and economically viable locations all over the country including at block level. The LPG marketing plan 1996-98 has been formulated on the following basis :

- To cover all urban locations with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages with in a radius of 15 KMs.
- All urban viable locations having a population of 5000 and above taking into account the potential of adjoining villages within 15 KM radius.
- Cluster of villages with in 15 KM radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10000 and above.
- villages within 15 KM radius around the towns having a population of 1 lakh and above for opening rural distributorships.

Accordingly, 2000 locations have been included in the LPG marketing plan 1996-98, out of which 1900 are for Urban-Rural and Rural areas alone. Large number of small towns, including block headquarters are covered in these locations. Large number of the LPG distributorships have been advertised by the Oil companies. Dealer Selection Boards have been constituted for selection of dealers/distributors. Actual commissioning of dealerships/distributorships depends on various factors such as number of locations advertised, interviews held by Dealer Selection Boards for selection of distributors, obtaining of land, appropriate licences, and construction of godown, by distributors, etc. It generally takes about 6-12

months for commissioning of the dealerships/ distributorships from the date of interview.

Panchayat Sanchar Seva Yojana

2814. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDER TIWARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana during the current financial year ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise including the main features of the said scheme; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a target of opening 200 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras during the current financial year. The details of the scheme are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

Objective of the Scheme :

The objective of the scheme is to provide basic postal and telecommunications facilities to the Gram Panchayat villages which are still without post offices. In this scheme, the panchayats will be the nodal point for retailing some of the basic services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles etc.

Functions :

The functions given below shall be performed by the Panchayat Kendra unless otherwise specified by the Department :

- (a) Booking of registered letters except VP and Insured articles;
- (b) Sale of postage stamps and postal stationery;
- (c) Grant of certificate of posting ;
- (d) Collection and delivery of mail including clearance of letters boxes, where feasible;
- (e) Propagation of Small savings Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance; and
- (f) Other functions of branch post office as and when the Department is satisfied that Kendras are able to discharge them.