

- (b) whether this production is sufficient to meet its demand;
- (c) the position with regard to demand and supply of LPG in Maharashtra during the last three years, district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government propose to supply LPG through pipeline in Maharashtra; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The actual LPG production in the country during the last three years i.e. from 1995-96 to 1997-98 was 10,053 TMT. The demand for LPG exceeds LPG availability through indigenous production and possible imports.

- (c) The demand of LPG customers who are enrolled with the oil companies in the State of Maharashtra has been met in full. Whenever any normal backlog develops, PSU oil companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets by operating LPG bottling plants during extended hours and on Sundays and holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.
- (d) Presently, there is no proposal of the Government to supply LPG to consumers through pipelines in Maharashtra.
- (e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

[English]

Paucity of Funds with IOC to Execute Contracts

2890. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Oil Corporation has no funds to execute contracts for the import of petroleum products;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) Imports of petroleum products are made in line with the approved plan to meet the demand. There is no paucity of funds with IOC to execute contracts for import of petroleum products.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

LPG Connection in Cauvery River Delta Area

2891. SHRI K. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a large number of people are waiting for new LPG connections and for additional cylinder in the Cauvery River Delta Area;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to set up more LPG outlets to reduce the gap of demand and supply in the region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) The number of persons on the waiting list registered with LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country as on 01.01.99 was about 133.5 lakhs including 14.31 lakhs in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(c) to (e) New LPG distributorships are set up on the basis of the LPG Marketing Plan prepared based on the feasibility and the economic viability of the distributors. There are about 2000 new locations included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98 to cater to the demand of LPG mainly in the rural areas. The availability of LPG is also expected to increase with the commissioning of new sources of LPG production, imports and liberalization in marketing of LPG. With this the gap between the demand and supply in LPG will narrow down.

Forests of Suhlewa Range

2892. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Forests of 'Suhlewa Range' areas comes under the Project Tiger;
- (b) if so, the funds allocated for the said range during each of the last three years, year-wise;
- (c) the number of tigers in the said range at present;
- (d) whether there has been any increase/decrease in the tiger population;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether any Non-Government Organisation has been directed to record the population of tiger since the start of Project Tiger; and
- (g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) to (e) According to the quardrennial All India Tiger Estimation carried out in 1997, the tiger population in Suhlewa Wildlife Sanctuary is 42. The tiger population in North Gonda and East Bahriach Forest Divisions of Uttar Pradesh was 40 in 1993. The Suhlewa Sanctuary has been carved out from these two Forest Divisions.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Question does not arise.

Vigilance Inquiries

2893. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many vigilance inquiries have been pending against the senior doctors in the Central Institute of Orthopaedic, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the date from which those inquiries have been pending, giving the reasons for delay in finalising them; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to finalise them expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) to (c) In November, 1998, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. P.K. Dave, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, to inquire into the complaints received from Dr. V.P. Bansal, on the functioning of Central Institute of Orthopaedics, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, concerning corruption and mismanagement. Similarly complaints from eight doctors of Central Institute of Orthopaedics, Safdarjung Hospital against Dr. V.P. Bansal was also referred to the committee.

The Committee's Report is awaited.

[Translation]

Installation of PCO Based on M.A.R.R. System

2894. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of M.A.R.R. PCOs installed in Murena Thyaopur Kalan districts in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the said PCOs are functioning properly;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA) : (a) and (b) The information is furnished as below :

	Distt. Morena	Distt. Sheopur Kalan
No. of Village Public Telephone (VPT)s provided on MARR)	380	250
VPTs functioning properly	307	173
VPTs not functioning properly	73	77

(c) Some of the MARR equipment is not found to be very stable.

- It takes long time to repair the faulty equipment.
 - The incidence of faults is also higher because of lack of attention by some of the custodians and frequent and prolonged power failure in rural areas.
- (d) (i) The faulty base stations, equipment as well as SREs of MARR systems are being got repaired by DOT staff as well as by the manufacturer suppliers;
- (ii) Solar panels on most of the VPTs of MARR are being installed;
- (iii) Monitoring of VPT faults at SSA level and circle level is being done on dally basis;
- (iv) All efforts are being made to repair the faulty VPTs and keep them in satisfactory working order.

[English]

Selection Committee for Distributors of Petroleum Products in North-Eastern States

2895. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Selection Committee for selecting the distributors of petroleum products in the North-Eastern States has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.