

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to improve its performance and to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A comprehensive proposal for Capital Restructuring of the Company was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 15 January, 1997. The proposal essentially aims at improving the overall performance of CEL and making it economically viable in various areas of its operations in the new policy environment.

The Company has drawn up a strategy for strengthening of certain areas of its operations. This includes identification and inclusion of new products, upgradation of existing technologies and processes through in-house R&D efforts or in collaboration with other R&D institutions. The strategy also envisages acquiring know-how or marketing/technology tie-ups with other concerns, either indigenous or foreign.

Abraham Committee on Power

854. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Abraham Committee set up by the Union Government to evolve competitive bidding norms and a tariff structure for Private Power Projects has submitted its final recommendations;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether Government has accepted the recommendations in toto; and

(d) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations include, inter-alia, bulk power tariff based competitive bidding instead of the cost plus approach as at present, availability based tariff etc.

(c) and (d) The recommendations are under examination.

LPG Connections

855. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA
SHRIMATI RATNMALA D. SAVANOR
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT
SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI
KUNWAR SARVARAJ SINGH
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of applicants in the waiting list for LPG connection by the end of 1996,

(b) whether the Government propose to make available LPG connections to all these persons by the end of March, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of LPG connections released to each State during 1995 and 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) State-wise Statement showing the number of persons in the waiting list as well as the number of LPG connections released during 1994-95 & 1995-96 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Release of new connections for clearing of waiting list depends inter-alia upon product availability, slack available with the existing distributors, minimum/sustainable allocation to newly commissioned distributors, unviable distributors etc. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate a definite time frame for release of connections to the waitlisted persons. However, with the expected higher availability of LPG through imports, more connections are planned to be released and it is expected to clear the entire waiting list by the year 2000-1.

Statement

State	Waiting list as on 1.1.97 (Fig. in lakhs)	LPG Enrollment	
		Fig. in Thousands 1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	10.74	176.1	131.3
Arunachal Pradesh	0.19	7.1	5.2
Assam	1.93	45.3	32.2
Bihar	4.18	105.0	46.1
Goa	0.89	8.4	8.0
Gujarat	8.43	109.8	77.1
Haryana	5.14	65.1	47.2
Himachal Pradesh	1.08	48.2	116.3
Jammu & Kashmir	1.63	37.4	79.8
Karnataka	7.19	119.8	102.5
Kerala	6.79	104.2	75.8
Madhya Pradesh	7.17	104.5	72.6
Maharashtra	19.05	350.9	261.6
Manipur	0.07	6.1	6.5
Meghalaya	0.08	5.7	7.2
Mizoram	0.08	6.5	8.8
Nagaland	0.07	3.7	4.2