

as early as in 1957. This particular demand of handing over DDA to the Delhi Government is to be debated once again in Parliament since DDA itself has been created by an Act of Parliament. *Suo motu* at this particular point of time, I will not be in a position to give any answer to the hon. Member in regard to the handing over of the DDA to the Delhi Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The hon. Minister may read through the debate...*(Interruptions)*

DR. U. VENKATESWARLU : Shri Jag Mohan is a learned person and an hon. Member. Everyday we discuss the issue of Delhi among several other issues.

This particular issue requires a long debate.

With regard to the second part, we will certainly come up with a better coordination with the State Government of Delhi for addressing this problem once the Buch Committee gives its recommendations to the State Government of Delhi.

### Exploration of Hydrocarbon

\*246. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether experts committee have recommended single widow clearance for hydrocarbon resources utilisation to strengthen international cooperation in proper exploration and utilisation of hydrocarbon resources for economic advancement of all the countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the proposals made in this regard; and

(c) the details of action plan drawn up to facilitate greater global cooperation in the exploration of hydrocarbons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) Government is not aware of any such recommendations made by an "experts committee".

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to hike in production and drilling cost of Oil and Natural Gas Commission the expenditure is likely to increased and many companies are not agreed to renew rigs contract. It may affect our oil production. I would like to know as to the steps being taken by the Government in this regard so as to find out a lasting solution to this problem with international cooperation?

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Sir, to attract private investment the working Group of Petroleum sector for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan has recommended certain major fiscal incentives to secure participation by the private

sector in the exploration of oil and gas...*(Interruptions)* Some incentives in the reduction of cess and royalty; cess and royalty to be made and ad-valorem of oil and gas price not for a specific amount; withdrawal of customs duty on import-related to upstream operations; development of special package for exploration in the North-Eastern States; and exploration efforts to be treated at par with research and development infrastructure etc. for giving tax incentives.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the wrong policies of the Government Kerosene is selling at Rs. 2.60 litre in rural areas and the rate is Rs. 10 per litre in the open market. Will any stren action be taken against those people who are selling kerosene at Rs. 10 per litre?

*[English]*

SHRI T.R. BAALU : The matter is under consideration We will be coming to the point.

### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

#### Prices of Petrol

\*243. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is the only country where prices of diesel and petrol are not identical; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and the steps taken to rationalise these prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) and (b) No Sir. According to the data available, the prices of Diesel (HSD) and Petrol (MS) are fixed differentially in various countries. The prices of these products in some of the countries are given below :

#### Prices of Diesel and Petrol in Various Countries

##### Prices in Local Currency/Litre

Country	Currency	Diesel	Petrol	Differential (Percentage)
1	2	3	4	5
Germany	Mark	1.27	1.59	25.2
France	Franc	4.00	5.70	42.5
Finland	Markka	3.91	5.54	41.7
Sweden	Sek	6.70	8.21	22.5

1	2	3	4	5
Greece	Drachmas	151.09	225.47	49.2
Belgium	Franc	28.10	40.00	42.3
Italy	Lire	1495.00	1910.00	27.8
Spain	Pesetas	94.00	120.00	27.7
China	RMB	2.16	2.40	11.1
Phillipines	Pesos	7.57	10.26	35.5
Thailand	Bhat	8.16	8.46	3.7
Myanmar	Kyat	2.31	2.39	3.5
Bangladesh	Taka	12.70	13.70	7.9
Japan	Yen	95.00	120.00	26.3
Pakistan	Rupees	9.66	17.23	78.4
India	Rupee	8.02	21.13	163.5

Diesel is an item of mass consumption and its price in India is fixed by Government taking into account various factors like production cost, socio economic factors etc. The price of Petrol is fixed in such a manner to cross subsidise certain essential petroleum products used by vulnerable sections of the society.

[Translation]

#### Tatkal Seva Scheme

\*247. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently announced a revised "Tatkal Seva" scheme for issue of fresh LPG connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue under this scheme to the LPG consumers; and

(d) the time by which this scheme is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (d) As per the modified Tatkal Scheme which has come into effect from 20.2.97, any person can have an LPG connection by paying a non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- in addition to regular security deposit towards cylinders and regulator, subject to the condition that he does not already possess an LPG connection. The connection will be installed at customer's premises within seven days from the date of receipt of application.

(c) Any person who is in urgent need of an LPG connection, can avail of the same immediately under Tatkal Scheme.

[English]

#### Special Funds for Drought Programmes of Orissa

\*248. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering any proposal to provide special funds for rural drinking water programme in drought prone areas of Bolangir and Nuapada in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total amount released under JRY to drought prone districts of Orissa during 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) Rural Water Supply Schemes in the drought Prone Areas of Bolangir and Nuapada are included in the plan of action of the State to provide safe drinking water to all habitations in the State. Under the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, in addition to the normal allocation of Rs. 34.68 crore, an additional allocation of Rs. 5.68 crore has also been made and released to cover the 'Not Covered' and 'Partially Covered' habitations (less than 10 lpcd) in the State. Further under the Basic Minimum Services, an allocation of Rs. 79.26 crore has also been made to the State, to be utilised for the seven basic minimum services, including Rural Water Supply.

(c) An amount of Rs. 1904.66 lakhs was released as central assistance to six drought prone districts of Orissa i.e. Kalahandi, Nuapada, Sonepur, Bolangir, Boudh, and Nayagarh during 1996-97.

[Translation]

#### Promotion of Hindi

\*249. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry propose to implement the national language Hindi, as an official language, fully in this Golden Jubilee year of Independence; and

(b) whether this Department propose to adopt a resolution during the current year?

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) and (b) Ministry of Science and Technology complies with the guidelines issued by the Deptt. of Official Language (Ministry of Home Affairs) from time to time regarding implementation of Official Language.

No proposal is under consideration for adoption of a specific resolution.