

also been received by the States have also been received by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to (a) and (b) above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) Such complaints are occasionally received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) So far as private lotteries are concerned they fall within the purview of State Government. The Central Government issued guidelines in 1984 to all the State Government regarding regulation of lotteries run by them. However, the complaints received are sent to the State Government for appropriate action.

Decrease in Number of Farmers

6717. KUMAR UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of farmers in the rural areas has decreased as per the 1990-91 census whereas the number of land-holding has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). 1990-91 Agricultural Census has not been completed as yet.

Price of Indigenous/Imported Fertilizer

6718. SHRI PHOOL VERMA:
SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of indigenous fertilizers are costlier than imported fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to equate the price of indigenous fertilizers with imported fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. For every fertilizer covered under the statutory price control, the consumer price of indigenous as well as imported fertilizers is the same.

(b) and (c). Question does not arise.

Production of Pistols and Revolvers

6719. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to go in for indigenous production of pistols and revolvers in order to bring down their prices so as to enable the common man to purchase them for security purpose; and

(b) if so, the time by which such production is likely to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M.

JACOB): (a) and (b). According to the existing policy, manufacture of pistols and revolvers and their ammunition in private sector is not being permitted.

[English]

LPG Distributorships in Kerala

6720. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction new LPG distributorship in Kerala during 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and

(c) the details of LPG distributorship allotted during 1991?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). LPG distributorship are opened at different places in the country on the basis of market survey, economic viability, product availability, etc. under various marketing plant.

(c) Nil.

Marketing/Distribution of Petroleum Products

6721. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the norms and criteria laid down by the Balmer Lawrie Co. Ltd. for marketing/distribution of petroleum products and grease;

(b) the details of distributors/consignment agents etc. for these products;

(c) whether the Balmer Lawrie Co. Ltd. propose to give advance technology assistance to small sector for manufacturing of grease to provide gainful employment to needy individuals;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the names of State which are unre-presented by agents so far for marketing/distribution of petroleum products and grease?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the statement attached.

(c) and (d). There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(e) The States unrepresented by Consignment Stock Agents of the Company are: West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and North Eastern States, Orissa, Maharashtra, Goa, Gujarat, and Madhya Pradesh.

STATEMENT

1. The norms and criteria followed by Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. for the selection of Consignment Stock Agents are: sufficient market potential, financial security, suitable godown space, solvency of the Agent, experience in marketing etc.

2. The names and locations of the Consignment Stock Agents are given below:

- (i) Nasvaaks Enterprises, VIII/417, South Cherlai Mattancherry, Cochin.
- (ii) Bhrith Bearings, 20/4 Kamaraj Salai, Pondicherry.
- (iii) Bright Associated, 54/1, 10th Cross, 4th Main Hanumantha