

growth profile, drought, assessment, floods mapping, etc.

(c) Yes, Sir. The IRS-1C data/information is supplied by the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad to various remote sensing data users in the Central and State departments as well as to State remote sensing centres, academic institutions, public and private sectors. Besides, under an agreement between ANTRIX Corporation of Department of Space and EOSAT Company of USA, Ground Stations in USA and Germany have been equipped to receive and disseminate IRS-1C data for users in Northern America and Europe respectively.

(d) The data/information are being used by various users for several remote sensing application projects in the country, under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) of Department of Space in coordination with Central and State user departments. The highlights of the major application projects are the following :

Mapping the type and extent of wastelands at micro-level,

Mapping of landuse/cover,

Soil mapping,

Preparation of hydrogeomorphological maps for identifying ground water prospect zones,

Monitoring of agricultural drought at district level,

Mapping of type and extent of forest cover,

Pre-harvest crop acreage and production estimation for major crops,

Near real-time mapping of flood inundation and damage assessment for major floods, Geological mapping for mineral prognostics,

Preparation of coastal zone maps,

Monitoring of command areas for improved irrigation management,

Urban Planning,

Environmental Impact assessment,

Integrated Mission for Sustainable Development to arrive at local specific developmental plans for land and water resources.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### LPG Connections

\*212. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed by the Government for releasing the LPG connections by the year 1996-97;

(b) whether the procedure started recently to release new LPG connections to the wait listed persons all over the country has been suspended for indefinite period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the present policy regarding release of LPG connections ?

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

(a) The target for releasing LPG connections during 1996-97 has not been finalised so far. However, the Government has approved adhoc enrolment of 6 lakh new LPG customers during the first quarter of 1996-97 and proposes to enrol a total of 20 lakh new LPG customers during 1996-97.

(b) and (c). Due to increased demand and expected lower product inventories in the coming peak season during 1996-97, it has been decided to put on hold any new LPG enrolment w.e.f. 1.7.1996 temporarily till such time new LPG import facilities at Kandla and Mangalore are commissioned and stabilised. However, new LPG enrolment would continue for the priority categories like Taj Trapezium area, Hilly markets, releases under Tatkal scheme and against MP/Government priorities, priorities of PSUs under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and the distributors to be newly commissioned. After commissioning of new import facilities at Mangalore and Kandla in October, 1996, there will be enhanced enrolment of customers through increased imports of LPG.

(d) New LPG connections are released, in a phased manner, throughout the country, depending upon the availability of LPG, total new customer enrolment, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

[English]

#### Retirement Gratuity

\*213. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have raised the ceiling on the maximum amount of retirement gratuity/death gratuity from Rs. 1 Lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakh under the Central Civil Services (Pension), 1992;

(b) if so, the date from which it has been given effect to and the basis thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the same benefits to public sector undertakings/corporations;]

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.