

| Year    | No. of Scavengers |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1995-96 | 98                |
| 1996-97 | 204               |
| 1997-98 | 73                |

**Participation of Indian Oil Corporation  
in Power Sector**

903. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- whether Indian Oil Corporation has any proposal to enter in power generation sector;
- if so, the details thereof;
- the total capacity of the power plants to be set up by the Indian Oil Corporation; and
- the amount likely to be spent on these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) IOC proposes to develop four residue based Power Projects close to its refineries at four locations i.e. Panipat (Haryana), Savli (Gujarat), Kosikalan (UP) and Haldia (WB) Also a 120 MW project has been planned to be set up at Bhatinda (Punjab) in joint venture with PSEB. Details of capacity and likely cost of these projects are as under.

| Project location | Capacity (MW) | Project Cost (Rs.crores) |
|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Panipat          | 301           | 1528                     |
| Savli            | 500           | 1670                     |
| Kosikalan        | 110           | 418                      |
| Haldia           | 500           | 2500                     |
| Bhatinda         | 120           | 368                      |

**Reservation to Backward Classes**

904. SHRI BHASKAR RAO PATIL : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- whether the Government have decided to provide reservation for backward classes in educational institutions;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) to (c) A proposal to provide reservation to other backward Classes in educational institutions is under consideration.

*[English]*

**Separate Ministry For North-Eastern States**

905. SHRI K. A. SANGTAM :  
SHRI K.S. RAO :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- whether the Government propose to have a separate Ministry for North-Eastern States; and
- if so, the objectives and the likely composition thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : (a) and (b) There is a separate Division dealing with the North Eastern affairs in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The problems of the North Eastern State receive special attention in the Home Ministry.

*[Translation]*

**LPG Agencies**

906. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :  
SHRI R.S.GAVAI :  
SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI :  
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- the number of L.P.G. agencies allotted in each State till date;
- the number out of those agencies allotted to SC/ST, handicapped, freedom fighters and ex-servicemen separately State-wise;
- the details of advertisements published to allot LPG agencies in each State during the last three years;
- the number of applications pending for approval, State-wise; and
- the number of new agencies proposed to be allotted during the current year alongwith their locations, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) As on 1.4.1998, 5324