

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of districts covered under said scheme; and

(c) the names and number of private companies permitted to operate in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Wireless satellite telephones for remote and inaccessible areas of the country have been planned to introduced from 1999-2000 by the DoT.

(b) 500 to 1,000 satellite telephone terminals are expected to be provided during 1999-2000 in remote and inaccessible areas of the country *i.e.* J&K, HP, hills of Uttar Pradesh, Assam, North-East, Rajasthan desert etc. where terrestrial technologies are techno-economically non-feasible.

(c) Village public telephones are being provided by Deptt. of Telecom. Licences have been granted to six private companies to provide basic telecom service and also village public telephones in six Circles. There are Essar Commvision for Punjab, Shyam Telelinks for Rajasthan, Reliance Telecom for Gujarat, Bharati Telenet for Madhya Pradesh, Hughes Ispat for Maharashtra and Tata Teleservices for Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Setting up of Bottling Plant in M.P.

949. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land has been made available to set up bottling plant of Hindustan Petroleum in Maneri industrial area in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry have formulated any scheme to set up the bottling plant within a specific period; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The land has been made available at Maneri Industrial area, Distt. Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh for setting

up of 44 TMTPA capacity LPG bottling plant. The plant is proposed to be commissioned by April, 2000.

(c) The plant is being set up under IXth plan approved by Government.

(d) Does not arise, in view of (c) above.

[English]

Proposal for Six Lane Highway in Karnataka

950. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has submitted any proposal for seeking approval of the Union Government for 135 Km. long six lane highway on the outskirts of the city connecting Dobbaspeta and Attibele;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harnessing Herbs

951. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special tribunal/make serious efforts for the promotion, conservation and development of herbs of Indian origin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made for the advancement of Indian herbal science in order to bring it to the world standard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Schemes are being