

been found viable and included in the Marketing Plan. These have been advertised in June, 1998 for selection of distributors through the concerned Dealer Selection Board. It generally takes about 6-12 months for commissioning of the dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Further, the oil companies have taken action to set up LPG agencies at the following locations in Madhubani/Madhepura districts of Bihar:

Benipatti	Karmagh
Madhubani	Murliganj (Madhepura)
Ghoghardiha	

[Translation]

Quality of Diesel

959. SHRI RAJBANSHI MAHTO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diesel produced by the Public Sector oil refineries in the country is 250 times impure in comparison to the best quality of diesel produced in the World; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to improve the quality of the diesel?

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) Purity of diesel (HSD) is normally measured in terms of Sulphur content. Most of the advanced countries like USA and European countries have Sulphur specification in diesel at 0.05 weight percent maximum. In India, Public Sector Indian Refineries produce diesel strictly as per BIS specifications, which is currently 1% maximum sulphur. In four metros and the Taj Trapezium, Sulphur content in diesel is even now limited to 0.25% maximum. Most of the PSU refineries supply diesel to other places also with Sulphur content much below 1%.

(b) To Supply 0.25% Sulphur diesel throughout the country Public Sector Refineries are implementing diesel hydrosulphurization projects at various location at a cost of about Rs. 5600 crores.

[English]

Adulteration in Petrol/Diesel/Mobile Oil

960. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Petrol Adulteration Thrives Capital" appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated February 8, 1999;

(b) if so, whether adulteration in Petrol; diesel and mobile oil is going on in the capital on a large scale; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to check the adulteration?

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) to (c) There have been no cases of adulteration detected by oil companies through underground hidden/unauthorised tanks, during transit in tankers and adulteration with solvents in Delhi. The company officials cooperate with law enforcing agencies and are in regular touch with State Govt. to check adulteration. Regular inspections/surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies. Also special drives are being launched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration. With effect from 31.12.98, only pre-mixed fuel is being dispensed to two stroke vehicles as per directive of Supreme Court.

Opening of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices

961. SHRI N.J. RATHWA:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open post offices/sub-post offices in Vadodara district of Gujarat, Malabar region of Kerala and in the villages of Satna district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the time by which the said post offices are likely to be opened;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of post offices/sub-post offices functioning in Chandigarh at present, district-wise;

(e) the number of these post offices opened during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government proposed to open some more post offices/sub-post offices in the Union Territory during 1998-99;

(g) whether the Government have also received any requests to open post office/sub-post office in Kerala during the last three years; and

(h) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to open post office/sub-post office in Vadodara district of Gujarat. It is proposed to open four Extra Departmental Branch post offices in Malabar region of Kerala. An Extra Departmental Branch post office is approved for opening in the Satna district of Madhya Pradesh. The details of post offices to be opened in Malabar region of Kerala and Satna district of Madhya Pradesh are given in attached Statement-I.

(c) No specific target allotted for Vadodara district of Gujarat.

(d) The details of post offices functioning in Chandigarh at present are given in attached Statement-II.

(e) The number of post offices opened during the last three years is nil.

(f) Post offices are opened on the norms based justification subject to the availability of resources and budget allocation. Keeping in view the norms for opening of post offices, no further expansion of postal services is justified at present in this area.

(g) Yes, Sir.

(h) The details of locations for which the requests have been received for opening of post offices, are given in attached Statement-III.

Statement-I

The details of post offices to be opened in Malabar region of Kerala and Satna district of Madhya Pradesh

Malabar region

Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices ordered to be opened at:

1. Vellur West (Kozhikode) - orders for opening of post office issued on 18.02.99.
2. Chandrapuram (Palakkad)-Orders for opening of post office issued on 22.01.99.
3. Olat (Kasargod)-Orders for opening of post office issued on 22.01.99.
4. Kanjikode Industrial Estate (Palakkad)-Orders for opening of post office are under issue.

Satna district of Madhya Pradesh

1. Extra Departmental Branch Post Office is approved for opening at village Govindpur of Satna district in Madhya Pradesh.

Statement-II

The details of Post Offices/Sub-Post Offices functioning in Chandigarh at present

	No. of Post Offices Chandigarh City	No. of Post Offices in villages of Chandigarh UT	Total No. of Post Offices in Chandigarh UT (City & Vill)
Head Post Office	1	--	01
Deptl. Sub Offices	41	02	43
Extra Deptl. Sub. Post Offices.	—	01	01
Extra Dept. Branch Post Offices.	—	06	06
Total	42	09	51

Statement-III*The Details of Locations for which requests for opening of Post Offices have been Received*

S.No.	Location	District	1	2	3
1	2	3			
			17.	Piramala	P. Thitta
1.	Pt. Chakonagar	Vadakara	18.	Payyalakkavu	Kollam
2.	Kunnathurpady	Kannur	19.	Onambalam	Kollam
3.	Peringolam	Kozhicode	20.	Elluvila	Kollam
4.	Kuniyanipuzha	Kannur	21.	Venkolla	Kollam
5.	Randukai	Irinjalakuda	22.	Chelamkonam	TVM
6.	K. Ashramon	Idukki	23.	Punnakkad	TVM
7.	Pathamedu	Idukki	24.	Attinpuram	TVM
8.	Valambur	Idukki	25.	Kovoor	TVM
9.	Mes College	Idukki	26.	Keezhavoor	TVM
10.	Heaven Valley	Idukki	27.	Mailom East	Kollam
11.	Kurisupara Jn.	Idukki	28.	Uliyanad	Kollam
12.	Kuzhivelipady	Aluwa	29.	Kadumeenchira	P. Thitta
13.	Mosko	Kottayam	30.	C. Thazhom	Kollam
14.	Thottappally	Kottayam	31.	Edayam	Kollam
15.	Nanguthotty	Idukki	32.	Appad	Wynad
16.	Avolichal	Aluwa	33.	Chanakundu	Kannur
			34.	Chooliyad	Kannur

1	2	3
35.	Palukkunnu	Thellicherry
36.	PathoorVattom	Vadakara
37.	Vanchiyam	Kannur
38.	Edumba	Telicherry
39.	Kattusseri	Palakkad
40.	Kuppadithara	Kannur
41.	Perumbadavu	Kannur
42.	Cherumad	Wynad
43.	Valancherry	Wynad
44.	Palathumkadavu	Telicherry
45.	Perumpally	Kozhicode
46.	Nelliyode	Telicherry
47.	Makkimala	Kannur
48.	Alikara	Ottapalem
49.	Vakancheri	Wynad
50.	poomala	Mavelikara

1	2	3
51.	Memury	Aluwa
52.	Paipara	Aluwa
53.	Vakkalur	Manjeri
54.	Turuthoor	Aluwa
55.	Swamavilasam	Idukki
56.	Attakandam	Kozhicode
57.	Mookode	Kozhicode
58.	Nalka	kozhiicode
59.	Perumpallithattu	Kozhicode
60.	puliannur	Kasargod
61.	Chathama	Ernakulam
62.	Kosarmoola	Telicherry
63.	Attakandam	Kozhicode
64.	Moukode	Kozhicode
65.	Vidyagiri	Kozhicode
66.	Cherukkala	Kannur

1	2	3
67.	Thalamkandam	idukki
68.	Karimukal	Emakulam
69.	Nethajipuram	TVm
70.	Valpara	Idukki
71.	Pothukallu	Manjeri
72.	Nadakkara	kannur
73.	Vattappara	Kollam

1	2	3
74.	Koshimala	Idukki
75.	Valyavanthi	P. Thitta
76.	Thathiyor	TVM
77.	Pulimpallikonam	TVM
78.	Mankadavu	Manjeri
79.	Madakada	Kannur

Oil Exploration by ONGC

962. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is involved in Oil Exploration in the Mahanadi Delta of the Orissa Coast;

(b) if so, the estimated deposit of Oil and Natural Gas in the region; and

(c) the administrative set up of the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation in its Oil Exploration project in the State of Orissa?

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) No, Sir.

(b) Oil India Limited carried out exploratory activities in Mahanadi Basin in Orissa. However, no commercial hydrocarbon discovery was made.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation does not have any administrative/operational set up in Orissa.

LPG Bottling Plants

963. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of LPG bottling plants set up in the country during 1998-99 till date State-wise;

(b) whether preliminary work on the said bottling plants has since commissioned; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Under the VIII Five Year Plan, additional capacity of 1120 TMTPA was proposed to be set up by Public Sector Oil Companies, with bottling plants at 54 locations in the Country. Under the IX Plan, it is proposed to construct 135 new bottling plants all over the country which will result in additional capacity of 3106 TMTPA. Preliminary