

is the responsibility of the concerned State Govt. The district-wise allocation within the State, the quantity of kerosene to be allocated to the ration card-holders and the retail selling price are fixed by the State Government authorities. State/UTs have been advised by the Central Govt. to streamline the distribution of kerosene in order to prevent its diversion and to ensure its distribution to the right people at the prescribed price. The oil cos. have introduced a system of inspection of retailers through its offices on regular basis. To prevent diversion of PDS kerosene, the oil companies are supply blue dyed kerosene. Furfural doping of kerosene is done at depots/terminals of oil companies. The Govt. has formulated a scheme for allotment of SKO dealerships for unemployed persons in Block Headquarters for sale of kerosene at non-subsidized rate.

It has been decided by Govt. to reduce subsidy on kerosene in phases, in accordance with its Resolution of 21 November, 1997.

Natural Gas to Power and Fertiliser Plants

1023. SHRI TEJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the requirement and demand of natural gas in the country for the fertilizer and power plants, State-wise and plant-wise;

(b) the total demand for natural gas in various power and fertilizer plants in U.P. and Maharashtra and the extent to which demand has been met; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet the demand?

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) The demand for natural gas has been assessed only Region-wise by an Export Group constituted by the Government, and the same is in the order of 30 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD) and 72 MMSCMD for

the Fertilizer and Power sector, respectively by the year 2004-05. Details are as below:—

(In MMSCMD)		
Region	Power	Fertilizer
Northern	28.85	17.18
Western	26.10	9.19
Southern	17.06	3.52

(b) The present allocations and supply of natural gas for the Power and Fertilizer sectors in U.P. and Maharashtra are as follows:—

(In MMSCMD)		
	Allocation	Supply
<i>U.P.</i>		
Power	5.12	5.02
Fertilizer	8.80	7.80
<i>Maharashtra</i>		
Power	6.00	4.70
Fertilizer	6.19	5.01

(c) The steps taken by the Government to meet the demand of natural gas are as under:—

- (i) developing the discovered fields for optimum production;
- (ii) augmentation of production, and reviewing & optimising the inputs of gas producing fields;
- (iii) accretion of reserves through continuous exploration and putting the new discoveries on production;

- (iv) offering of acreages for private participation under exploration bidding rounds;
- (v) exploring possibility of obtaining gas from Coal Bed Methane; and
- (vi) exploring possibilities of importing LNG.

Hydrocarbon in Assam

1024. SHRI ARJUN SETH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil India Limited has found very prospective areas of Hydrocarbon in Assam and in the North-East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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) Some discoveries in the older and deeper Paleocene/Eocene formations in Kathaloni, Dikom etc. have been made in the recent past. The latest of such discoveries include Kagorijan and Moran. With the discovery of hydrocarbons in Kagorijan which is located in the vicinity of Brahmaputra river bed and its north bank, the prospectivity of these areas has been further enhanced. Further, the deeper discovery in the older Paleocene/Eocene formations in Moran has opened up new opportunities for exploration beyond the so far provided limits. The life of depleting Moran oilfield will now be further enhanced.

Telecom, Post and Telegraph Facilities in J&K

1025. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, telephone exchanges, telegraph offices proposed to be set up in J&K during 1999-2000;

(b) the number of places proposed to be connected with STD during the said period;

(c) the places connected with STD so far in the Distt. of Kathua, Udhampur and Doda; and

(d) the details of the development plan for the posts and telecommunications sectors during Ninth Five Year Plan in the State?

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

(a) *Department of Post:*

Post Offices are opened subject to norm based justification and availability of resources and targets. Targets are fixed postal circle-wise for each Annual Plan at the beginning of each Annual Plan.

Department of Telecom:

It is proposed to open 30 exchanges in J&K Circle. Telegraph offices to be opened; Nil

(b) 85 stations are planned to be connected with STD facility during the said period (1999-2000) subject to availability of resources.

(c) The places connected with STD facility so far in Kathua, Udhampur and Doda districts are shown in the attached statement.

(d) *Department to Posts:*

The outlay for the draft Ninth Year Plan is yet to be finally approved and has been pruned from Rs. 580 crores to Rs. 507.25 crores. State-wise or postal Circle-wise outlays have not been proposed in the Ninth Plan. Postal Circle-wise provision of funds is made when Annual Plans are implemented. During 1997-98 the first year of the Ninth Plan, 11 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 1 Departmental Sub Post Office has been opened in the state. Apart from this, 22 PC based counter machines, 5 Electric franking machines have been provided to the Circle during the said year, and 1 post office was modernised.

During 1998-99, there is a target for opening 30 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and 1 Departmental Sub Post Office, subject to availability of resources. Further, there is a target for providing 10 PC based counter machines and 106 stamp hand cancellers in the state during the said year. 1 post office namely, Anantnag head post office has been taken up for modernisation during the current year.

Department of Telecom:

For Ninth Year Plan, broad objectives are to provide telephone on demand, STD facility on stable media for all exchanges and village public telephones in all remaining villages.