

regarding not to implement the reservation policy of the Government for the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
(c) Does not arise.

LPG Connections

5052. DR. RAVI MALLU :
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI H.G. RAMULU :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:
SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :
SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI :
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL :
SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA :

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

- (a) the number of LPG and double bottling connections given by various companies in each State during each of the last three years, company-wise;
(b) the position of waiting list for such connections for urban and rural areas separately till date, State-wise;
(c) the number of new LPG and double bottling connections proposed to be issued during the current year alongwith the target fixed for Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise;
(d) whether the Government propose to provide LPG connections in backward areas particularly in rural areas on priority basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the percentage of new connections proposed to be given in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : (a) The details of number of LPG connections/DBC released by PSU Oil Companies in the country during the last three years are given below:

Year	New Connections Released (Lakhs)	DBC Released (Lakhs)
1995-96	20.6	18.20
1996-97	23.4	22.41
1997-98	41.4	38.06

(b) No. of persons registered in the waiting list of the PSU Oil Companies for LPG as on 1.4.98 was about 127.56 lakhs. It is not maintained on the Rural and Urban basis so far.

(c) LPG connections are not released on Statewise basis. New LPG connections are released in a phased manner against waiting list throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, slack available with the LPG distributors and their viability. Since, the demand for LPG exceeds LPG availability and possible imports, new LPG enrolment plans are approved by the Government on a year to year basis. The new LPG enrolment/DBC plan for 1998-99 is not yet finalised. During IX Plan period, it is proposed to release 165 lac new connections & DBCs each in Urban market, and 50 lac new connections and DBCs each in Rural markets.

(d) and (e) With the increasing non-availability of traditional fuels and increasing popularity of LPG as cooking fuel due to its convenience in use and to prevent further deforestation, the Government has decided to start marketing of LPG in the rural areas also.

The Oil Industry has planned to enrol 50 lakh new LPG customers during IX Plan period in the Rural Sector.