

(b) whether there is any scheme to cover all blocks by increasing the number of L.P.G. outlets and Petrol pumps in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of applications pending with the Government for the allotment of LPG agencies in the State;

(e) whether quota of LPG agencies for the reserved categories has been fulfilled; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) As on 1.10.1998, 1121 retail outlet dealerships and 213 LPG distributorships were in operation in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Viable locations are included in the Retail outlet and LPG Marketing Plans of the Oil Industry. Reservation for different social objective categories is provided as under:

Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST)	25%
Physically Handicapped Persons (PH)	5%
Paramilitary/Police/Government Personnel (PMP)	8%
Defence Personnel (DC)	8%
Freedom Fighters (FF)	2%
Outstanding Sportspersons (OSP)	2%
Open (O)	50%

Also, 33% of the dealerships/distributorships in all the categories mentioned above are reserved for Women belonging to that category. Other things being equal Unmarried women above 40 years of age without earning parents and Widows are given priority over others.

In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, a total of 99 LPG distributorships have been included in the LPG Marketing Plan 1996-98, which covers most of the urban areas even small ones, including adjoining rural areas.

The selection of dealers/distributors is made through normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection by the Dealer Selection Board on merit.

(e) Locations earmarked for a particular category are filled from that category only.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Wastage of Petrol and Diesel

997. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK.

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

(a) whether the Government have assessed annual losses due to wastage of petrol and diesel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted by Petroleum Conservation Research Association in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of petrol and 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) and (b) No, Sir. The Inter-ministerial Working Group on Utilization and Conservation of Energy 1981, however, identified an energy saving potential of 20-30% for the three sectors of Transport, Industry and Agriculture.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Petroleum Conservation Research Association had sponsored a study through Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) in 1996 to quantify fuel losses due to idling of vehicles at traffic intersections of Delhi. The per day loss of petrol and diesel was 3 lakhs and 1 lakh litres, respectively, amounting to annual loss of Rs. 245 crores.

(e) State Governments and Union Territories have been advised to adopt the traffic engineering, education and enforcement measures recommended by the study

In addition, the National Oil Companies have sponsored a 10 km. stretch of road for synchronization of signals in the metro cities of New Delhi, Calcutta, Pune Chennai and Bangalore of which the one at Calcutta has been commissioned while the others are in progress.

[Translation]

Power Crisis

998. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BAINDA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 12-point power improvement scheme is not functioning properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to monitor the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Power Reform Initiative was adopted in the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers Conference on 18th December, 1998. This has been circulated among all States/Union Territories for its implementation. The Government is taking regular steps to ensure that all the actions are implemented in a time bound manner. Detailed reviews are undertaken of projects with each State to ensure that the targets are met.

Expansion of Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

999. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI:
SHRI RAJO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the telephone exchanges at present functioning in Bihar, exchange-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to expand the present capacity of the existing telephone exchanges in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof, exchange-wise;

(d) the total expenditure involved therein; and

(e) the time by which the expansion work is likely to be completed?

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

(a) The capacity of exchanges as on 31.12.98 is available in attached Statement-I.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details are available in attached Statement-II.

(d) Allocation of fund under capital head for 1998-99 is given below (in crores of Rupees):—

Cash	Store	Total
308.7	30	338.7

(e) Expansion work is likely to be completed by March, 99 subject to availability of equipment, store and accommodation.

Statement-I

The capacity of the Telephone Exchanges as on 31-12-1998 functioning in Bihar Exchange-wise

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Arrah	4680
2.	Akhgaon	184
3.	Gajrajgang	184
4.	Gidha	88
5.	Jamalpur	88
6.	Koitwar	336