

Pradesh during the last three years is furnished below :

	(Rs. in thousands)	
	Dhar District	Badwani District
1995-96	427.43	2078.00
1996-97	56.43	2112.00
1997-98	337.78	2670.00

(b) All telephone exchanges in Dhar and Badwani are battery operated and are working satisfactorily. The district-wise figures are given below :

	Dhar District		Badwani District	
	Working	Not working	Working	Not working
M/W Towers	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Telephone exchanges	108	Nil	42	Nil

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

**Decentralisation of Sale and Distribution  
of LPG, Petrol and Diesel**

1015. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to decentralise the sale and distribution of cooking gas, petrol/diesel at tehsil/block level; 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) As on 1.10.1998 there were 16981 retail outlet dealerships, 6384 SKO/LDO dealerships and 5560 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country.

New retail outlet dealerships are opened at places meeting Oil Industry's viability norms.

With regard to LPG in order to cater to the requirement of rural areas, the LPG marketing plan 1996-98 was formulated on the following basis :

To cover all urban locations irrespective of its viability with a population of 10000 and above taking into account potential of adjoining villages within a radius of 15KMs.

[English]

**Integrated Population Stabilisation Programme**

1016. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a committee to develop and implement integrated population stabilisation programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the population crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) to (d) In the recent past the Government had constituted several high level committees and expert groups to advise on the steps to be taken for stabilising population in the country. Taking into consideration suggestions from these Committees, a draft