

(b) the steps taken to meet the full requirement of LPG in district;

(c) whether rural areas of the district have been neglected in supplying LPG; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

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) The estimated monthly sale of packed LPG by the distributors of Public Sector oil companies in Jahanabad District of Bihar State is around 67 MTs per month and the demand is being fully met.

(b) the LPG demand of existing consumers enrolled with PSU Oil Companies in Jahanabad district of Bihar is being met by and large in full. However, whenever LPG backlog develops due to law and order problem, floods or any disruption in availability due to emergency shutdowns at any of the production sources, etc. Oil Companies take immediate measures to meet the demand in the affected markets through maximising LPG imports and by operation of LPG bottling plants during extended hours and Sunday and Holidays to clear the LPG backlogs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to limited availability of LPG from indigenous sources and possible imports, so far the existing marketing plans have been made mainly covering towns having a population of 20000 and above. However, LPG has been introduced in certain environmentally fragile areas and hilly areas below 20000 population to protect the environment and prevent deforestation.

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 commence marketing of LPG in the rural areas also. Further, for the purpose of undertaking enrolment in the rural areas, industry has formulated the revised 1996-98 Marketing Plan taking into account the following:

(i) To cover all urban locations with a population of 10,000 and above by including potential of adjoining villages falling the radius of 15 kms.

(ii) All urban locations having population of 5000 and above should be surveyed for setting up a distributorship and the viability to be ascertained by taking into account the potential of adjoining villages falling within 15 Kms. radius.

(iii) Cluster of villages within 15 Kms. radius of nucleus villages having a population of 10,000 (ten thousand) and above, to be surveyed for setting up rural distributorship and included in the Plan depending upon the viability.

(iv) Villages within 15 Kms. radius around towns having population of 1 lakh and above to be surveyed for opening of rural distributorships. While identifying rural locations contiguous to these towns, it should be ensured that adequate number of LPG distributorships exist in such towns so as to avoid marketing of LPG by rural distributorships in urban areas.

(v) All VIP references should be surveyed for development of LPG distributorships by including the potential of adjoining villages falling within the radius of 15 Kms.

Based on the above criteria, Oil Industry has identified 1285 urban/rural and 401 exclusively rural locations in the country for servicing the rural areas under the revised 1996-98 Marketing Plan.

**Development Plan for Telecom Sector in Karnataka**

1719. **SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI**: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the development plan for the telecom sector in Karnataka particularly in rural areas of Dharwad region during 1998-99 and achievements made so far in this regard;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the said period;

(c) the number of post offices functioning at present in rural areas of the State;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some more post offices in the rural as well as urban areas in the State during 1998-99;

(e) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and the funds allocated for the purpose; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA):  
(a) Details of development plan and achievements are given below:

	Target	Achievement (as on 28.2.99)
<i>Karnataka Circle</i>		
Net capacity addition	266000 Lines	187335 Lines
DELs	200000 Lines	170486 Lines
<i>Dharward Telecom District.</i>		
Net capacity addition	23902 Lines	16486 Lines
DELs	17498 Lines	15097 Lines
<i>Rural Areas of Dharwad</i>		
Net Capacity addition	8724 Lines	6724 Lines
DELs	8500 Lines	7261 Lines

In addition out of a target of providing 2500 Village Public Telephones (VPT) during 1998-99, 1376 VPTs were provided upto 28.2.99. Out of this it was also targetted to provide 10 VPTs in Dharward Telecom District and all have been provided. All the 1344 villages in Dharwad have been provided with VPTs.

(b) Funds allocated towards development for Karnataka Circle for 1998-99 is Rs. 504.43 crores including Rs. 37.86 crores for the rural areas. Out of this the funds allocated for the rural areas of Dharwad Telecom. District is Rs. 5.46 crores.

(c) At present, 8504 Post Offices are functioning in rural areas of Karnataka.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is proposal to open 10 Post Offices in rural areas and 4 post offices in urban areas subject to the norm based justification. The funds amounting to Rs. 29.61 lakh have been allotted for the purpose.

(f) Nil.

#### Privatisation of Oil Wells in West Bengal

1720. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission has decided to hand over the oil well of Ichapur, Chakda of Calcutta and other two oil well at Boral and Chandkuni in Midnapore District through open tender wherein heavy production is reported by ONGC; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

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) No, Sir. ONGC has not reported heavy production in any well in West Bengal. No decision has also been taken by ONGC for handing over any oil well in West Bengal through open tender.

(b) Does not arise.