

(b) the number of new-outlets added in last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to open more petrol pumps in the city;

(d) if so, whether plots of land been identified for this addition; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government to tackle the growth of vehicular pollution and stagnation in the number of Petrol Pumps?

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) 295 retail outlet dealerships are in operation in Delhi.

(b) Oil Companies have allotted 22 retail outlet dealerships in Delhi from 1995-96 to 1997-98.

(c) Oil Companies have proposal to allot 65 more retail outlets in Delhi.

(d) and (e) Government has taken up the matter with DDA and other agencies from time to time. DDA has offered a few sites for retail outlet dealerships to the Oil Companies. Further, in view of the limited availability of land in certain localities, Government had issued instructions that in future all advertisements will be issued for National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and not for specific location and also to change the location for all pending LOIs to anywhere in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

[Translation]

#### Clearance to Patna Reservoir Irrigation Scheme

1779. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patna Reservoir Irrigation Scheme of Satna District in Madhya Pradesh is pending with Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir. Proposal for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, under Rule 4 of the Forest (Conservation) Rules, 1981, for Patna Reservoir Irrigation Scheme of Satna District, Madhya Pradesh has not been received from the State Government so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Oilfields Discovered in Assam by OIL

1780. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new oilfields have been discovered in Assam recently by the Oil India Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the broad estimate of reserves ascertained after the discovery?

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) and (b) During the year 1998-99, Oil India Limited has made additional discoveries of hydrocarbons at Mohanbari, North Baliyan, South Kathaloni, Khagarijan, Kamhat and Moran South (Deeper Prospects) in Assam.

(c) The reserves in respect of the above discoveries are yet to be assessed.

#### Rural Electrification

1781. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed by the Government to electrify villages in the rural areas;

(b) the details of the programme of rural electrification during the Ninth Five Year Plan in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the target fixed for the electrification of villages in Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the achievements made thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Rural Electrification Corporation sanctions loans against specific projects drawn up by the State Electricity Boards/State Governments for their respective areas of operation. The Government has decided that "a village will be deemed to be electrified if electricity is used in the inhabited locality, within the revenue boundary of the village, for any purpose whatsoever".

(b) Planning Commission has fixed a target to electrify 30,000 villages and energise 20 lakh pumpsets during the 9th Five Year Plan. State-wise targets are under finalisation.

(c) During the Eighth Five Year Plan, 1315 villages were targeted for electrification in Bihar. Against this target, Bihar State Electricity Board have reported electrification of 524 villages.

[Translation]

#### **New Postal Policy**

1782. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drafted the new Postal Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including changes made in the postal laws; and

(c) if not, the time by which this policy is likely to be finalised and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) A Draft national Postal Policy with specific focus on upgradation and modernisation of postal services with enhanced application of modern technology, expansion of postal network through traditional methods of opening

post offices as well as through innovative methods like franchising at minimum cost, involvement of private initiative in the areas of value added services, generation of additional resources, steadfast-compliance of the principle of universal service obligation, strengthening international cooperation in the field of postal services on bilateral basis and through the aegis of the Universal Postal Union and other regional postal bodies engaged in the task of postal development, was prepared. This policy paper was discussed in a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Communications held on 5.2.99 in which certain suggestions were made. In the light of the suggestions, the draft policy paper is again being modified.

[English]

#### **Renewable Energy Projects**

1783. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of renewable energy projects under implementation in different States particularly in Maharashtra as on date;

(b) whether such proposals are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

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

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing various Non-Conventional Energy programmes and projects throughout the country including the State of Maharashtra. Details of major Renewable Energy Projects under implementation in the country and in the State of Maharashtra is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (e) Details of the project proposals etc. are given in enclosed Statement-II.