

(a) to (e) The Government had constituted a Group of six Ministers (GOM), including the Minister of Communications, to consider the recommendations of the Justice Talwar Committee (JTC) on Postal Extra Departmental Agents (EDAs). The GOM was serviced by the Department of Personnel and Training.

The GOM after careful consideration of the recommendations of JTC formulated its recommendations and based on these recommendations Government have taken decision to extend a package of benefits to Extra Departmental Agents. Necessary orders in this regard were issued by Department of Posts on 17.12.98. The benefits extended to EDAs are the following:

- (i) Raising their basic monthly allowance by a factor of 3.25 for the period 01.01.96 to 28.02.98.
  - (ii) Thereafter with effect from 1.3.98 placing them in Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) corresponding to the first two scales of pay recommended by the JTC in case of different categories of DEAs and the first scale in respect of the ED Sub Postmasters.
  - (iii) Increasing the maximum permissible amount of Ex-Gratia Gratuity from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-.
  - (iv) Increasing the Office Maintenance Allowance from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.
  - (v) An entirely new facility has been extended by way of paid leave of 10 days for every half year for EDAs without the provision of carry forward or encashment.
  - (vi) Further, a provision has been made for lumpsum Severance Amount for EDAs as a form of post employment benefit.
- (f) Does not arise in view of (a) to (e) above.

#### **Petrol and LPG Outlets**

1818. SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol, diesel and LPG outlets of various Government oil companies functioning in Dhar and Badwani districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the number of such outlets is adequate keeping in view the population and area of these districts; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to open more such outlets in these districts?

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) At present, there are 25 retail outlets and 4 LPG distributorships in operation in Dhar District and 5 retail outlet dealerships and one LPG distributorship are in operation in Badwani District of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) In order to cater to the increased demand, there is proposal to set up 7 more LPG distributorship in Dhar District and one retail outlet and two LPG distributorships in Badwani District of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

#### **Corruption in Judiciary**

1819. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:  
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:  
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is a large-scale corruption in judiciary particularly in lower courts and poor and needy are deprived of justice as a result thereof;

(b) if so, the number of corruption cases noticed by the Government alongwith complaints received in this regard separately during the last three years and involvement of officials therein, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to weedout corruption from judiciary alongwith action taken on complaints received?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) to (c) The subject matter regarding corruption in lower judiciary is the concern of respective State Governments and High Courts in accordance with the provisions of Article 235 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, the number of cases of