

**Backlog of the LPG Applications
in North-Eastern States**

1835. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have cleared the entire backlog of LPG applications in all other North-Eastern States except Tripura;

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing LPG applications in Tripura; and

(c) the time by which the entire backlog of the State is likely to be cleared?

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) to (c) Government has recently approved release of 1.5 lakh additional LPG connections to clear the waiting list of Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and North-East States including the State of Tripura. Oil Companies have been asked to liquidate the entire waiting list of these states, which is expected to be cleared by end June, 1999.

**Request of Kerala Government to Re-assign the
Fuel Linkage to M/s. RPG Enterprises**

1836. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representation from Government of Kerala to re-assign the fuel linkage in favour of Kasaragod Power Corporation Limited of M/s. RPG Enterprises in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken 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) and (b) Government of Kerala had requested the Union Government to re-assign the fuel linkage earlier allocated to Kasargod Project of Kerala Government to Kasargod Power Corporation Ltd. of M/s. R.P.G. Enterprise in Kerala. The Central Government has informed Kerala Government that as per the policy, the fuel linkage to

Kasargod Project would be outside the capacity of 660 MW allocated to the State of Kerala and as per the terms of earlier allocation to Kerala Govt., the allocation of linkage to this project cannot be transferred to a new project.

Telephone and Post Office Facilities

1837. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages out of total villages in the country having telephone and post-office facilities during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the details of the target fixed for providing said facilities in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan, State-wise?

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

(a) *Telephones:*

The details of villages having telephone facilities during the last three years is enclosed in Statement-I.

Post Offices:

Year-wise details of the last three years of villages having post office facilities are given in the Statement-II.

(b) *Telephones:*

The State-wise Annual targets for providing telephone facilities in the country for the first two years i.e. 1997-98 and 1998-99 of 9th five year plan are enclosed as statement-III. For the remaining period of 9th plan the targets have not been finalised yet.

Post Offices:

Targets for opening post offices are allotted, post circle-wise at the beginning of each annual plan. The Circle-wise allocation of targets for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices (EDBOs) and Departmental Sub Post Offices (DSOs), during the first two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan are give in statement IV. Plans for 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are not yet finalised.