

*[English]***Internet Service**

1874. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide internet service in Bankura district, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Internet Node is proposed to be provided at Bankura by 26.01.2000.

At present, access to the nearest Internet node at local call rate is being provided by dialling 17226/172227.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Installation of Platforms by ONGC in Krishna Godavari

1875. SHRI M. RAJAIHAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation propose to install two platforms to develop the Krishna Godavari offshore basin;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the target set up for completing the project and estimated cost thereof?

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) Yes, Sir. The project envisages installation of two platforms in Krishna Godavari offshore basin to exploit free gas from two marginal structures at an estimated cost of Rs. 45.93 crore with scheduled completion by May, 2000.

LPG Connections in Chandigarh

1876. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of people are on the waiting list of LPG connections in the Union Territory of Chandigarh for the last many years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the years from which they are on the waiting;

(c) the date on which the connections were released last in the Union Territory; and

(d) the steps taken to clear the waiting list and the time by which it is likely to be done?

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 number of persons on the waiting list registered with the LPG distributors of the PSU Oil Companies in the country is 133.5 lakhs including 0.78 lakhs in Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(b) to (d) Government has recently approved release of 1.5 lakh additional LPG connection to clear the waiting list of Union Territories, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, North-East States including UT of Chandigarh. Oil Companies have been asked to liquidate the entire waiting list of these areas and to clear the current pending waiting list including in the UT of Chandigarh by 31.3.99 and thereafter, release LPG connections across the counter on demand.

*[Translation]***Direct Foreign Investment in Road Sector**

1877. SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any progress in regard to the initiative/decision taken by the Government for opening up National Highways for foreign investment at the attractive terms for their speedy development/upgradation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed particular National Highways for direct foreign investment, State-wise?