

DR. SHAILNDRANATH SHRIVASTAVA: First, please provide the facilities of national standard, then I would ask for facilities of international standards.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Two international flights to Nepal are already operating from Patna. Sir, I have already said that airports, especially those in State capitals are of special importance. Certainly, there should be facilities in these airports—and we are making all out efforts for this purpose. But, as I said earlier, the problem is of mobilising resources. Keeping in view the availability of resources, facilities, whatever required, will be made available.

We will seriously consider the request of the hon. Member.

Supply of LPG Through Pipeline

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*265. **SHRI PHOOLCHAND VERMA:**
SHRI MANJAI LAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make supply of LPG in several big cities in the country through pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Indian and foreign firms have been contacted for undertaking this work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. It is not feasible to supply LPG through pipelines. However, natural gas is being supplied a domestic fuel in Baroda, Bharuch-Ankleshwar, Sibsagar, Dulaijan and Moran. Commitments of natural gas have also been made for city supply schemes in Agartala, Bombay

and Surat. Feasibility studies for supplying natural gas to some other cities are being conducted by GAIL.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. GAIL has undertaken techno-economic feasibility studies with the assistance of M/s. Sofragaz of France in respect of Bombay, and M/s. British Gas with respect to Delhi, Noida and Kanpur. While reports in respect of Bombay, Delhi and Noida have been received, the Kanpur study is under finalization by M/s. British Gas.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir it appears from the reply given by the hon. Minister that either he could not follow my question or he is deliberately giving wrong information to the House. I have asked very clearly in the part (a) of the question, whether Government propose to make supply of LPG in several big cities in the country through pipelines and part (b) of the question is—"if so, the details thereof". The reply given by the hon. Minister to parts (a) and (b) of the question is "No, Sir" whereas the reply to parts (c) and (d) is—"Yes, Sir. GAIL has undertaken techno-economic feasibility studies with the assistance of M/s. Sofragaz of France in respect of Bombay, and M/s. British Gas with respect to Delhi, Noida and Kanpur. While reports in respect of Bombay, Delhi and Noida have been received, the Kanpur study is under finalization by M/s. British Gas." Mr. Speaker, Sir I fail to understand how it is possible that on the one hand the hon. Minister says that there is no proposal to supply gas through pipelines whereas on the other hand Government is consulting foreign agencies for this purpose. Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the estimated cost of Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline project was Rs. 97 crores which escalated to Rs. 1062 crores due to the wrong policies of the Government and red tapism of the Government departments. That means the Government will have to spend Rs. 145 crores more now on this project. Not only this, under the agreement with the British company we will

have to pay 0.3 lakh dollars every year as commitment charges to the company if the project is not completed within the stipulated time. The hon. Minister should clarify as to why this provision has been made in the agreement. At present there is acute shortage of gas supply in the country. So I would like to know by which time the pipeline project would be completed and whether the Government would think in this direction seriously?

[*English*]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir, there is no misunderstanding on my part. He had asked whether the Government proposes to make supply of LPG in several cities in the country through pipelines. LPG is not supplied through pipelines but it is supplied through cylinders. We supply only natural gas through pipeline. Let the hon. Member understand the difference between LPG and natural gas. We want to supply natural gas to various users and the domestic user is very important. He jumped suddenly to Khandla Bhatinda pipeline project. That does not arise from this question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA Mr Speaker, Sir, the cost of 30 per cent output during Eighth Five Year Plan was Rs. 1400 crores. The hon. Minister has stated that the production will be about 50 million tonnes by 1994-95. The hon. Minister has stated that natural gas would be made easily available in a number of big cities. I would like to know whether the Government have fixed any target in this regard? Has the Government fixed any target for Eighth Five Year Plan to make natural gas available not only in big cities but also in big towns? Besides 550 km long gas pipeline passes through Madhya Pradesh and therefore I would like to know whether the backward areas like Bastar and Raipur in Madhya Pradesh will get benefit of this pipeline?

[*English*]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir

he has confused many issues. I think I have to ask him question for clarification.

MR SPEAKER You only reply to those aspects which arise out of this question.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY He has asked whether the natural gas that is produced in India is being effectively used and whether it is being taken to various parts of the country for various uses. So far as domestic use is concerned, I have already mentioned in the reply some areas like Delhi, Bombay, NOIDA, Kanpur, Agartala, etc.

SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI Sir, he has asked about Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY You please clarify on his behalf. If he is thinking of HBJ pipeline, that is known to all Members that HBJ pipeline does not arise from this Question at all. That requires a separate notice and I am prepared to answer any question on that.

Let me assure the Member that we intend to supply natural gas for domestic purpose. For that purpose, various techno-economic feasibility studies are being conducted. We are already supplying gas to domestic users in Baroda and Baroch.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANJAY LAL Mr Speaker Sir, it has been stated by the hon. Minister in reply to part (a) and (b) of the question that feasibility studies for supplying natural gas to some other cities are being conducted by GAIL. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the name of those cities particularly the cities in Bihar for which studies for supplying natural gas are being conducted?

[*English*]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY It will be our endeavour to see that more cities are covered in future and we want to make natural gas available and we want to supply gas to domestic users and also we want to

supply more natural gas to commercial and industrial purposes

[English]

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SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV The hon. Minister in his reply has mentioned that a commitment has been made for supply of natural gas under city supply scheme to Agartala, Bombay and Surat. You have said, a commitment has been made for supply of natural gas. I would like to know when was the commitment made and what is the progress and whether the rate of supply of natural gas has been finalised with the State Government. If not, how soon you are going to finalise it? (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER I am not allowing you, please sit down

[English]

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY I have already said that apart from the cities to which gas is being supplied, already commitment for gas supply to Surat, Agartala and Bombay, has been made. The techno-economic feasibility report is being prepared and I have mentioned it already in my reply.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV I am asking you, when was the commitment made by you and the fixation of rate of supply of gas. This comes in my constituency and I have written a letter you. Your reply is negative. Your reply and the answer given in the House should be the same.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY He is referring to rate, price for gas. That is being looked into. We have constituted a committee in the Department for going into the entire gas supply and they have submitted a report. Price is also one of the things that has been considered. We are looking into the report. Very soon, we are going to decide on that.

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SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU If anybody

approaches GAIL for supply of natural gas, they put the condition that they will supply the gas by so and date. But in case, the person does not use that gas, even then, he will have to pay for it. But in return, they are not agreeing to the condition that the user wants like—if GAIL is unable to supply as by that date, it has to pay the compensation. They are not willing to take this responsibility.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY You are referring to domestic user, or for industry, trade.

SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU It is for industrial use.

SHRI M S GURUPADASWAMY Sir, that question does not arise at all from the main Question. I want a separate notice.

SHRI M M PALLAM RAJU My question is not answered.

MR SPEAKER The hon. Minister does not want to answer.

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SHRI K S RAO In all the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, the availability of firewood is almost nil for domestic consumption. There is shortage of firewood. So, the entire population including lower middle class, middle-class or even some of the poor people depend on gas supply now and the consumption of gas in some centres has gone up substantially. The availability of gas is very much less in coastal districts. There is a constant demand for more and more agencies. Apart from that, the availability of gas in the coastal belt is found to be very high compared to the oil which they have already explored.

I just want to know from the hon. Minister keeping in view the availability of gas in the coastal district and also the immediate necessity of the same for the people there, because of the shortage of firewood, whether he will think in terms of starting some more LPG bottling plants in Vizag or in between Vizag and Vijayawada and make more

number of agencies in that area so that more people can make use of it immediately.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We have got sufficient bottling capacity in the country. What is deficient is LPG availability. We are importing LPG in bulk quantities and we are short of foreign exchange and it is extremely difficult for us to meet the demand. But, I agree with the hon. Member that our effort is to see that as far as possible we supply LPG cylinder to largest number of people so that forest and other natural wealth is saved.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Are we importing gas cylinders?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We are not importing cylinders at all. Only gas cylinders are manufactured in India and we have got bottling plant which is sufficient more or less but we are importing LPG gas in bulk quantities.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has undertaken any study regarding the techno-economic feasibility of supply of natural gas from Tripura to adjoining States and also whether at any time the Government of India has discussed with the Bangladesh Government regarding the possibility of laying pipeline for the purpose through Bangladesh.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: No.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Your supplementary is over.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is regarding supply of LPG through gas pipeline to big cities of the country whereas there is acute shortage of gas in Madhya Pradesh for the last two months. Neither gas nor Kerosene oil is reaching the towns and cities in Madhya Pradesh as a result of which people are facing lot of difficulties. Will the hon. Minister augment the supply of cooking gas for Madhya Pradesh?

[English]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: No.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Manjay Lal, please sit down. I am not allowing you to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that when there is a shortage of gas supply in the country, the main distribution comes in the mainland and the far-flung areas are normally forgotten. There are areas like Andaman and Lakshadweep. I come from Laskhadweep.. (Interruptions) of late, we have pushed in our population in intensive fishing. Whatever fire-wood available is used for domestic purpose. Because of this, we are having an acute shortage of fire-wood. Therefore, the Government of India, long back, made a commitment that at least three or four major Islands would be supplied with LPG connection. Now, one Islands' demands were met partially by the Government of India and the remaining three or four Islands have still not been supplied wit even a single LPG connection. Will the hon. Minister, who happens to be a good old friend of mien and having known even my place also, give some concession in this regard?

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. It is true that the demand in Andaman & Nicobar Islands for LPG is rising. What we are supplying is not adequate... (Interruptions) What we have been supplying is not adequate to meet the rising demand. There are the local Governments also to take steps. We are trying to do our best in this regard. Btu as the hon. Member is aware, we are facing problems. So far as this area is concerned, it is under our active consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI PYARE LAL LAL KHANDELWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government has con-

tacted two foreign companies—one British and another French—for this purpose. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether besides French and British companies, the Government has contacted any other foreign company also and if so, the name of that country and company and what response the Government received from that company?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Sir, M/s. Sofragaz is a Company which has been asked by the Ministry to have a techno-economic feasibility survey in Bombay. They have given the report and that report has been sent to PIB for consideration. The PIB has raised certain issues.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Which are those countries?

[*English*]

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We are trying to reply to those issues. At this stage, this is the position. Our intention is to see that Bombay and some other Cities may be taken over for comprehensive gas supply not only for domestic purposes but also for commercial purposes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not getting proper reply to our questions from the hon. Minister. We seek you protection.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*] 17-22

Setting up of Windpumps and Windfarm Demonstration Projects in Punjab

*266. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken for setting up of windpumps and windfarm demonstration projects in Punjab and the targets achieved so far; and

(b) the districts in Punjab where such projects are proposed to be implemented during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). Seventy-seven water pumping windmills were set up in Punjab under a demonstration programme. There is no proposal to undertake wind energy projects in the State during 1990-91 as the available data shows that the wind potential in the State is low.

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid the reply given to the Minister by his Department is not really correct.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not go about that. Please hear the Minister. He will reply to it.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: It appears that the reply has been framed either by a terrorist victim or the victim of the Mandal Commission Report. May I know from the hon. Minister how much money has been spent on these 77 water pumps and from which year to which year?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: All the 77 water pumping windmills have been implemented during the period from 1980-81 to 1984-85. The total money that has been spent on these projects, on each wind pumping mill, is available. There is an expenditure of Rs. 12000/-. The total comes to Rs. 9 lakhs.

SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: As I said, the reply is not correct. I have operated from all the air fields in Punjab and most of the air fields in the Western sector. I know the wind pattern. The winds are calm before dawn. The pick up during the day and die down by the dusk. And they are calm from dusk to