

(c) if so, whether Government have given approval for introducing these aircraft for air taxi plan?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). M/s Asiatic Limited, a Madras based firm, has been given no objection in principle to operation of air taxi services.

Guidelines for Allotment of Petrol and Petroleum Products Agencies

*585. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO:
SHRI PYARELAL KHANDEL-
WAL:

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

(a) the guidelines for selecting dealers and distributors for petrol and petroleum products of public sector oil companies;

(b) the priorities which are followed in selecting the areas for granting dealerships;

(c) whether there have been complaints about the non-observance of these guidelines; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to ensure strict compliance of the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) The oil companies invite applications for award of LPG distributorships/Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealerships and Kerosene/LDO dealerships included in the Marketing Plans by advertising in prominent Newspapers. Applications received in response to such advertisements are considered on merits by the concerned Oil Selection Boards which are independent bodies headed by retired High Court Judges.

In making selection of candidates who meet the eligibility conditions in regard to income, educational qualifications, residence, category, age, etc. the Oil Selection Boards take the following factors into account:

- (i) personality;
- (ii) business ability/salesmanship;
- (iii) capacity to arrange finance and capability to provide facilities;
- (iv) preparedness for working full time as a dealer; and
- (v) general assessment and extra curricular activities.

(b) The criteria adopted for selection of areas for establishment of dealerships/distributorships is as follows:—

LPG Distributorships

- (i) All major towns/cities;
- (ii) All District Headquarter towns subject to the town offering enough potential for establishing a viable distributorship;
- (iii) Towns with population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 Census) which offer adequate potential for setting up of an economically viable distributorship.

R.D. Dealerships

Locations meeting the volume distance norms are included in the Marketing Plan.

SKO-LDO Dealerships

- (i) A dealership can be developed at a place where a minimum potential

of 75 KL of SKO per month is available;

- (ii) New SKO-LDO dealerships can also be created at unrepresented Block Hqrs./Taluka Hqrs.

(c) and (d). Complaints of non-observance of these guidelines are enquired into and appropriate corrective actions are taken wherever necessary. Every effort is made to ensure the compliance of the guidelines. The procedure for selection is also reviewed from time to time to plug loopholes, if any, found in the procedure.

Impact of Rail Tariff Hike on State Electricity Boards

*586. SHRI V. SREENIVASAPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports that the proposed rail tariff hike is likely to affect adversely the viability of the State Electricity Boards;

(b) whether cost of coal would also be affected due to this rail tariff hike; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Government have not so far received any report on the effect of the proposed rail tariff hike on the viability of the State Electricity Boards.

(b) and (c). Coal is sold to the power Boards ex-colliery works. However, increase in the transportation costs of coal from the collieries to the Power Stations as a result of the hike in rail tariff would naturally effect the cost of coal at the power station sites. It has been approximately estimated that for an average lead of 646 Kms., the cost of coal is

likely to go up by about 7% with effect from the 1st April 1990 and about 10% with effect from the 1st October, 1990, with respect to the cost of coal prevalent as on the 31st March, 1990.

[Translation]

Setting up of Agro-based Industries

*587. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
SHRI Y.S. RAJA SEKHAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some districts in the country have been identified for establishing agro-based industries; and

(b) if so, the names of such districts, State-wise and the industries proposed to be established therein?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). While no districts have been identified by the Central Government in the country for exclusive setting-up of Agro-based industries, it is the policy of the Government to encourage setting-up of Agro-based industries in different parts of the country.

[English]

Hydel Projects of Leh and Kargil Districts of Jammu and Kashmir

*588. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had agreed for the construction of two medium sized hydel projects, one each for Leh and Kargil districts of Jammu and Kashmir to be financed through the National Hydroelectric Power