

(c) whether output of ongoing plants (plant load factor) is expected to improve to overcome the difficult situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) A power shortage in varying degrees may occur in some of the States, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, in the coming months. The measures taken to mitigate the power shortages include expediting commissioning of on-going projects, early stabilisation of newly commissioned units, better utilisation of existing capacity, implementation of short gestation projects, providing assistance from neighbouring systems and measures to conserve energy and to manage the demand

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The improvement will overcome the situation to some extent.

Restoration of Additional LPG Cylinder Facility

*942. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have withdrawn the additional LPG cylinder facility in the country ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the consumers are facing great difficulty in getting refills within a certain time-limit and have to wait for 15-20 days to get the refills ; and

(c) if so, whether it is proposed to re-start the additional LPG cylinder facility ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) & (b). No, Sir. The release of extra LPG cylinder (DBC) was temporarily suspended from October, 1985 due to impending higher winter demand and to backlog in supplies that had developed in some parts of the country.

(c) Occasionally a backlog in supply of LPG refills develops in some markets due to factors such as operational and transport

bottlenecks, seasonal increase in demand, civil disturbance etc.

(b) It has already been resumed in a number of places.

Electronic Telephone Exchange at Patna

*943. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government propose to take to improve the telephone exchange of Patna; and

(b) the time by which the electronic telephone exchange will be made available for Patna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) The Service in the Patna Telephone system is generally satisfactory. However, there is always scope for improvement. The following steps have been initiated for further improvement :

(i) Progressive replacement of the life expired exchange equipments.

(ii) Maintenance routines are being tightened up and close monitoring of the system aiming at improved performance is being done.

(iii) Jelly filled cable is being progressively to avoid ingress of water in the cable.

(iv) Drop wires are being used in place of open wire alignment.

(b) A 10,000 lines Digital Electronic Exchange would be provided towards the end of the 7th Plan if 200,000 lines Electronic exchange equipment import comes through.

Supply of Steam Turbines and Generating Transformers by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd,

*944. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :