

(a) the reasons for having suspended the allotment of gas/kerosene agencies and petrol pumps in the last one year;

(b) the number of gas agencies that ought to have been sanctioned but for the said decision regarding suspension of allotment; the time by which such agencies will be sanctioned;

(c) what is the minimum population which entitles a city or town to be eligible for allotment of a gas agency; and

(d) what are the criteria for allotment of a gas agency in a rural area keeping in view the need for rural development?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). While allotment of dealerships of petroleum products had not been suspended, fresh selections were not taking place after the term of the incumbents of the Oil Selection Boards expired in June, 1986. Till the re-constitution of these Boards, between March and July, 1987, action was being taken by the oil marketing companies to award and commission dealerships in cases finalised by the outgoing Boards where no enquiry about the selection or modification of the panel of names appeared necessary. Since all the Boards have now been reconstituted, interviews for-pending selections have been resumed and will be finalised from time to time.

(c) and (d). The oil industry is normally taking up, in a phased manner, locations with a population of 20,000 and above which offer sufficient potential for economically viable marketing of LPG. There is no proposal for marketing of LPG in rural areas as such.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Shortage of Raw Materials for Plastic Units

\*121. SHRI SALEEM I. SHERVANI:  
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Shortage of raw goods hitting plastic units' appearing in the Financial Express of 12 June, 1987; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to meet this shortage for the smooth running of these units?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) and (b). Yes Sir. The news-item mainly refers to shortage of Polypropylene Homo-polymer. The main reason for shortage is due to the fact that indigenous capacity is not adequate to meet the demand and the situation has become difficult due to adverse demand supply balance in the international market and the rise in international prices.

The situation is likely to ease with the IPCL commissioning an expansion project of Polypropylene Co-polymer with a capacity of 25,000 MTA shortly. We have also planned additional capacity of polypropylene for a capacity of 60,000 MTA in Maharashtra Gas Cracker Complex which will be commissioned in 1989.

With a view to meet immediate gap, efforts to obtain imported raw materials are being encouraged and to ensure reasonable prices, constant review of the international prices is taken. The above steps would augment the domestic availability and meet this shortage for the smooth running of these units.