

awarded by the Oil Companies are reserved for various sections of the society. No security deposit is taken from them.

(d) LPG distributorships have already been awarded to the candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes (5), physically handicapped (2) and unemployed graduates (4).

Shortage of Power in Karnataka

535. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) has it come to the notice of Central Government that there is shortage of power in Karnataka State which is affecting trade, industry and agriculture;

(b) necessary steps taken by the Central Government to make Karnataka self-sufficient in power;

(c) the progress made in respect of two thermal projects at Bangalore and Gulbarga; and

(d) do Government propose taking early steps to take up and complete the projects early?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Karnataka is at present facing power shortage. The energy availability in the State is about 20 MU per day including assistance from neighbouring States as against its requirement of about 25 MU per day. In order to meet the deficit, the State has imposed power cuts of 10-33-13 per cent on energy consumption and 10 to 30 per cent on peak demand on HT industrial consumers with demand of above 200 KVA w.e.f. 7th January 1982. Demand cut was enhanced subsequently to 10-45 per cent on HT industries, w.e.f. 4th March, 1982. There is no cut on agricultural consumers.

(b): In order to improve power availability in the State, an additional capacity of 1517 MW is under construction in the State; out of which 790 MW will be commissioned during the period 1982-85. The primary responsibility for project implementation, including ensuring adequate flow of funds rests with the State Government. The Central Government is rendering assistance through intensive monitoring, securing coordination with equipment suppliers and railways and allocation of essential inputs like cement, steel and aluminium.

(c) No proposals have been received from Karnataka state for setting up thermal power plant at Bangalore and Gulbarga.

(d) Does not arise.

Raids on Petrol Pumps in Northern India

*536. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have conducted any raids on the petrol pumps in Northern India during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of petrol pumps on which raids were conducted for adulteration of petrol and diesel;

(c) the particulars of petrol pumps whose petrol and diesel was found adulterated and whether any action was taken against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.