

However, no specific ERR has been prescribed in the case of loans for Rural Electric Cooperative Projects, electrification projects of Harijan Bastis and Special Loans for improving the quality of rural power supply.

(b) A target of energisation of 22,25,885 pumpsets has been envisaged in the Seventh Plan under the rural electrification projects financed by the REC. The total number of pumpsets energised during the first three years of the Plan is 13,43,754.

Handling of LPG by Haldia Port in Eastern Region

*924. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to allow the Haldia Port to handle bulk LPG to remove its shortage in the eastern region;

(b) if so, since when the proposal is under consideration;

(c) the main reasons for not clearing the proposal; and

(d) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) to (d). The Indian Oil Corporation has plans to set up LPG import handling facilities at Haldia Port to meet the overall shortfall in LPG availability. The cost of the Project being within the sanctioning authority of IOC, it was approved by the Board of Directors of the Corporation in August, 1987.

Shortage of LPG

*925. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of LPG for domestic users; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or being taken to maintain its supply to consumers without difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) A backlog in supply of LPG refills had temporarily developed in the last few months in several markets in the country, on account of shortfall in the bulk availability of LPG, apart from movement, industrial relations and other operational constraints;

(b) With the steps already taken, the supply situation has since considerably improved. Also, efforts are being made to maximise indigenous LPG production and also augment supplies through imports to the extent feasible. The situation is being closely monitored by the oil industry with a view to ensuring regular LPG supplies to the consumers.

Manufacture of Potable Alcohol Based on Non-Molasses Raw Material

*926. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to allow creation of additional capacity for the manufacture of potable alcohol based on non-molasses raw material; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective in view?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Final decision has also been taken and announced.

(b) Considering the shortage of alcohol in the last few years, Government has decided to relax the ban, imposed in 1975, on manufacture of alcoholic drinks, if raw materials other than molasses are used. List of agricultural raw-materials which can be used, has been specified and guidelines for licensing procedure have been issued through a Press Note, a copy of which is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6263/88]