

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :

Sir, in Gujarat the housewife is using gas for cooking purposes and as you can see from the answer given, there is a long waiting list. I would like to know whether the Government would give preference to this project so that the housewife can be helped in this connection.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :

Sir, the backlog in March, 1988 was 1.4 per cent in Gujarat while all over the country it was 2.2 per cent which is much higher. We are taking steps, we are increasing the bottling capacity in Gujarat, so that in new marketing plan we can include some new more areas and enrol more customers.

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD :

Sir, the price factor is also a major issue. With the rising prices of all commodities and then the increased price of LPG gas the housewife, the house holder finds it difficult to make through his meal. I would like to know if the Government is taking steps to keep the prices low so that the housewife does not find it difficult.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT :

We have not increased the price of LPG. We are subsidising to the extent possible and we do not have any proposal to increase the price.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our country we have got huge cylinder manufacturing capacity and we make lakhs of cylinders in our country. A number of cylinder making units in our country are lying idle and they are waiting for orders. Similarly, we got plenty of LPG available in our country. There is only one problem and that is with regard to the Bottling Plants in our country. So, I would like to ask from the Hon. Minister the number of bottling plants working in our country, whether they able to meet the demand and, if not, the immediate proposal and plans from the Government side to meet the demand.

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : Sir, the total availability of LPG in 1987-88 was 1590000 metric tonnes and we had to import 155000 metric tonnes. That makes a total of 1745000 metric tonnes. But at

present our attempt is to supply LPG cylinders to the towns having a population of 20,000 and above. Now, the number of existing bottling plants in the country is about 55 and 49 more are being commissioned under phase III to be completed by the end of 1989. We are also making attempts to increase the availability of LPG. It is now being extracted at Hajira; we propose to extract it at Bijapur and later on at Auraiya.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : What about the bottling plants ?

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT : The bottling plants are coming up in the third phase. We are already working on the fourth phase also. It will go according to the availability.

[Translation]

**Telex facility in District Headquarters
in Uttar Pradesh**

*1025. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the district headquarters in Uttar Pradesh where telex facility is proposed to be provided during 1988-89;

(b) whether Almora and Pithoragarh districts of the said State will also be linked with this service during the current year;

(c) if so, by what time; and

(d) if not, the time by which this facility is proposed to be provided at these places ?

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS
(SHRI VASANT SATHE) :** (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

Statement

- (a) Mirzapur and Mathura (Rampur already provided).
- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) At present there is no firm demand at Almora and Pithoragarh. Telex facilities at these places will be planned as and when minimum demand of four subscribers comes up.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is a very backward in the field of tele communication. Uttar Pradesh has the least number of district headquarters which are connected with the telex service. How many district headquarters are you going to connect with the telex service this year ? In this context, will you bear it in mind that in Uttar Pradesh the number of district headquarters possessing telex service is the least.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is incorrect that in Uttar Pradesh the number of district headquarters connected with telex service is minimum. Telex facility has been provided in 18 districts of Uttar Pradesh which include districts of Agra, Aligarh, Allahabad, Barreilly, Dehradun, Faizabad, Ghaziabad, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow, Moradabad, Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Raibareilly, Saharanpur, Sitapur and Varanasi. Notional telex has been provided in Shahjahanpur, Haridwar and Rampur. We provide the facility of notional telex provided a demand of at least 4 telex connections is made. In districts where you want this facility, you manage the demand of at least four telex connections and we will provide them this telex facility.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : I thank the Hon. Minister for his kind gesture and expect the same from him in future too. Will the Hon. Minister provide telex facilities in hilly areas by slightly relaxing the norm from four to two as has been done

with regard to other facilities provided there ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It has been reduced from forty to four.

MR. SPEAKER : Lest it should not be reduced less than one.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : This has been done for all.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It will be extremely difficult to accept your request for two.

[English]

Manufactures of Tractors

*1028. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to manufacture in collaboration with certain firms, a cheaper type of tractor which will be within the reach of common farmer; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Sir, this is no answer at all, You know very well that now the agriculturists are seeking tractors with specialised functions and especially having better fuel efficient engines. Apart from the 15 per cent excise duty, because of the bloating cost of steel and tyres, the price of a tractor has increased by 20 per cent. Keeping all these factors in view, I would like to know whether the Government thinks it necessary to update the technology to meet the new requirements.