

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Visakhapatnam 15,335
Hyderabad 79,991

**Tuesday, August 27 1991/Bhadra 5.
1913 (Saka)**

**The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock**

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

**Waiting List for LPG Connections in
Andhra Pradesh**

*569. **SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE** : Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for LPG connections Pending in Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad cities of Andhra Pradesh respectively; and

(b) the time by which all the applicants on the waiting list are likely to be provided with LPG connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) :

(a) Name of cities	Waiting list as on 1-7-1991
Vijayawada	11,181

(b) Efforts are on to give LPG connections to as many applicants as early as possible.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will agree with me that the answer to part (b) of the question given by the hon. Minister is very vague. I would like to know from him how many new LPG connections are being given per year in these three cities respectively and whether it is not a fact that Bharat Petroleum had invited in October, 1989 applications for LPG distributorship under physical handicap category at Vijayawada to replace the previous dealer whose dealership was cancelled because of malpractices and if so.

Mr. SPEAKER : This is becoming too specific relating to only one agent.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : The question relates to the city of Vijayawada.

Mr. SPEAKER : you are going to one agent now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Similarly about Ganavaram also, few days back when a question was answered, the hon. Minister had said that because of the constraints of production of LPG, new dealership could not be given at several places where 20000 or more population was there. Bharat Petroleum had previously, around two years back, invited applications in

some places. For example. I mentioned of one place. Similarly, in Krishna District at Gannavaram also applications were called for. But, till now no action has been taken. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when a decision is going to be taken so that the consumers in the respective areas which are intended to be served will be served effectively in the coming future.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, there are a total of 17 million LPG consumers in the country now and 7 million potential consumers are on the waiting list. As per the projected programme of the oil companies, only 5 lakhs or half a million applicants can be satisfied this year depending upon the indigenous production and import of LPG.

As regards the dealership, for the last three or four months the question of dealership or implementation of the 1987-88 marketing plan as per which dealerships are given for LPG, for motor spirit, high speed diesel oil and kerosene, is under review because of various considerations which I do not want to mention here now. We want to take a quick decision on this matter and the implementation of the backlog as determined by us, will start as soon as possible, within a few weeks. It is not possible for me to give the details of each agency in each of the districts of the country. But we have a set procedure for determining the demand and guidelines for determining the potential for a new agency in a given district. We also have a procedure for replacing and punishing agents against whom complaints have been brought and the complaints are established

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : Sir, the hon. Minister is answering not only of Vijayawada and Hyderabad but of the entire country

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, the hon. Minister is again saying that the criterion will be taken into consideration. I do agree with it. But that exercise was already done. In respect of some places, invitations were already called for as far back as in 1989. In Hyderabad City also, where nearly 80,000 consumers are waiting to get a connection, applications were called for in 1989 itself in places like Alwal and other places in the City. I would like to know from the hon. Minister why the applications were called for long back in respect of these three cities for which I have specifically asked the question. That exercise was already done and applications were called for. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister will take suitable steps so that a decision will be taken as early as possible to effectively cater to the needs of these three cities.

Mr. SPEAKER : This is restricted to three cities.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, the applications are called for much in advance. There is a long process of verification and I would like to assure the hon. Member that as far as the three cities mentioned by him are concerned, we will have a close look at it and see that the sanction for legitimate applicants is expedited.

SHRI D. D. KHANORIA : Sir, I wish to ask the hon. Minister about the supply of cooking gas in the hill districts. In the hill districts the basic cooking fuel has been firewood and in view of the environmental require-

ment firewood cannot be cut from the forest. In view of the above, would the hon. Minister kindly assure whether he has any special provision for providing cooking gas in the hill districts and also open more number of outlets for gas agencies.

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, the hon. Member would be pleased to know that as far as hill districts—as determined and listed by the Planning Commission—are concerned, a subsidy is given for the hill districts. The subsidy for the LPG is more for the hill districts. The freight is not charged from the storage point in the plains to the distribution point in the hills. The extra expense goes into the oil pool account. This is to encourage greater utilisation of LPG in the hill districts which are essentially in the environmentally fragile areas so that we can replace the use of firewood which would cause denudation of forests. Giving special preference to the hill districts is a part of our oil distribution policy.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has just now said that there are seven lakh consumers on the waiting list and there is a plan to release five lakh connections. Will the waiting list always continue? Whether Government proposes to start another plan after clearing the waiting list? The waiting list still exists and later on more people will apply. Whether Government proposes to continue the waiting list for ever?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not a question like this.

(Interruptions)

Mr. SPEAKER : You please ask the question.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : I am asking whether there is any plan to clear the waiting list?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR : Sir, I have answered in the main question that it is the determined effort of the Government to reduce the waiting list. But there is a gap between the demand and the supply. There is a constraint in the production of LPG indigenously because the LPG is produced from the gas in gas breaking wells and the oil in the refineries. There is a constraint in the imports due to foreign exchange as well as the infrastructural facilities for imports. Therefore, the availability of LPG can be increased only at a certain rate. The waiting list will, therefore, always be there because only five lakh connections are being given now. Ten lakh connections would be given next year. From 1995 onwards, we hope to increase the rate of giving connections to forty lakhs per year. At that time we hope the waiting list can perhaps be eliminated.

[Translation]

Tourism Development at places of Kumbh Mela

*570. **SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA :** Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state the special arrangements being made for development of tourism at places where 'Kumbh Mela' is being held and specially for the 'Singhasth Kumbh' to be held in Ujjain in April, 1992?