

Vijayawada. However, the policy of setting up of stockyards by Coal India Ltd. is under review due to complaints against their functioning. Any proposals received from State Government agencies to set up and run coal stockyards will be considered on merits of each case.

[Translation]

**LPG Agencies and Petrol/Diesel retail outlets in Bihar**

3478. SHRI SIMON MARANDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the district-wise number of LPG agencies in Bihar;

(b) whether the number of gas agencies in Santhal Pargana and Chhotanagpur Commissionery of Bihar is very few and whether in many town no gas agency has been opened;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up gas agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets in these towns of Santhal Pargana;

(d) if so, the action being taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) As on 1.4.91 there were 141 LPG distributorships in Bihar.

(b) to (e) New LPG distributorships and retail outlet dealerships are allotted based on various factors including the population of towns, volume/distance norms, economic viability, marketing plans and policy from time to time.

[English]

**Development of stations in Varanasi district**

3479. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the development and beautification of the different stations in Varanasi district;

(b) if so, the station-wise details thereof;

(c) the amount spent on maintenance

of each station in this district during last three years; and

(d) the amount proposed to be spent during 1991-92?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Statistics of expenditure on maintenance are not kept station-wise or district-wise;

(d) No station-wise amount is fixed for maintenance. Expenditure is incurred as necessitated by the condition of the station.

**Pilferage of Goods in Maharashtra**

3480. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of wagons loaded with goods, especially of pig iron and coal are reported to have been lost in transit in Maharashtra;

(b) whether such complaints have also been received by the railways from the public;

(c) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(d) the amount paid to the claimants during 1990-91 and 1991-92 and the claims due as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Some complaints of non-delivery of coal and pig iron consignments for destinations in Maharashtra have been received.

(c) Consignments were traced and delivered or match adjustment was made failing which compensation was paid.

(d) During 1990-91—Rs.30.26 lakhs was paid as compensation to the claimants. During 1991-92, no payment has been made so far. 44 claims including 43 pertaining to coal and one pertaining to pig iron are pending disposal at present.