

(c) the time by which required quantity of soft coke is likely to be supplied to the State every month ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (c) Allotment and supply of soft coke/CIL COKE from Coal India Limited sources during last two years was as follows :—

(In '000 tonnes)
(All figures provisional)

	Allocation		Supply		
	Soft coke	CIL COKE	Soft Coke	CIL COKE	
January-June, 93	360	—	128.1		Coal India Ltd. have reported that CIL COKE was not booked by the consumers in Bihar.
July-December, 93	360	—	160.9		
January-June, 94	240	120	145.24		
July-December, 94	240	120	74.41		
January-June, 95	60	300	30.65*		

* (Supply figures are for January to March, 95)

Soft coke allocation to various States had been reduced keeping in view the constraints faced by the coal companies in regard to its production. Since there is no scope for increasing the production of soft coke, there was no alternative but to reduce allocations to various States/Union Territories including that of Bihar. However, in order to supplement the availability of domestic fuel, various steps have been taken by the coal companies. They include the following :—

(i) Coal companies are offering steam coal in lieu of soft coke allocations. The State Governments could in turn convert these steam coals into soft coke in their respective States.

(ii) The allocation of CILCOKE has been increased. State Governments have been requested to encourage the use of CILCOKE as a substitute of soft coke.

(iii) Coal is being supplied to briquetting units and several Special Smokeless Fuel (SSF) plants. The State Governments including that of Bihar, have been requested to monitor production of briquettes/SSF by these units and also encourage new units so as to provide an alternative to soft coke.

Border Security Force

8145. SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to introduce a new scheme for handicapped and widows of the Border Security Force;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposed scheme is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

LPG Agencies and Petrol Retail Outlets

8146. SHRI LALL BABU RAI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets allotted on the recommendations of Members of Parliament during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Members of Parliament are also informed when allotments are made on their recommendations; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) to (c) A large number of letters and recommendations are received every year from Members of Parliament and other VIPs regarding allotment of dealerships and distributorships of petroleum products. The facts and circumstances of each case including recommendations of MPs and other VIPs are taken into consideration, while making allotments under discretionary powers of the Govt. on compassionate grounds. No account is kept of cases sanctioned on the basis of recommendations of MPs. Normally, the selections of dealerships/distributorships are made by OSBs, which are empowered bodies headed by a retired Judge of High Court and two other prominent persons as Members. During the last three years, 152 Retail Outlet dealerships and 182 LPG distributorships were allotted on compassionate grounds under the discretionary powers of the Government.

[English]

Telephone Connections in West Bengal

8147. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in West Bengal, district-wise; and

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during 1992, 1993 and 1994, respectively and the number of persons likely to be allotted new telephone connections during the current year, district-wise ?