

examined the suggestions made by FICCI in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). As per Press Release issued by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), dated 3.1.1990, suggestion has been made that a new Companies Act be formulated (as was done in the UK in 1985) to make it relevant to the current economic policies and programmes and to harmonise it with the overall strategy of the Government. As per this Press Release, suggestions have, *inter-alia*, been made for amendment of Sections 5, 370 and 372 of the Act. At present, the Government does not propose to bring forward any legislation for further amendment of the Act.

Allotment of LPG Agencies and Petrol Pumps in Maharashtra

1274. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG agencies and petrol pumps sanctioned for Maharashtra during 1989-90;

(b) whether any applications for the allotment of such dealerships in Maharashtra are still pending;

(c) if so, their number and the reasons therefor; and

(d) how many new LPG agencies and petrol pumps are proposed to be allotted in Maharashtra during 1990-91?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURU-

PADASWAMY): (a) During the year 1989-90, Letters of Intent for 13 LPG distributorships and 42 Retail Outlets (Petrol/Diesel) have been issued;

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir; Applications in respect of 80 locations for LPG distributorship and 48 locations for Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) dealership are at different stages of finalisation;

(d) In view of the various steps that are required to be taken for making allotment of dealerships/distributorships, it is not possible to indicate the exact number, out of the above, which would be allotted during 1990-91.

Supply of Cooking Gas through Pipeline in Bombay

1275. SHRI ARVIND TULSHIRAM KAMBLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in laying the pipeline for the supply of cooking gas in Bombay; and

(b) when this work is likely to be completed and the citizens of Bombay will be able to avail of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). Gas Authority of India Ltd. have carried out a techno-economic feasibility study for supply of natural gas in Bombay, and have submitted a proposal to the Union Government for approval. The proposal is under consideration.

Amendment to MRTP Act

1276. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to bring forward a legislation to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP Act); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b). At present, there is no proposal to bring forward a legislation to amend the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act (MRTP).

Karnal Refinery

1277. SHRI KAMAL NATH:

SHRICHIRANJILAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a final decision on setting up the Karnal Refinery;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement the project without further delay; and

(c) the total cost of the proposed refinery and the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). The terms and scope of Soviet assistance for this project are currently under discussion. The likely cost and the schedule for completion of the project can be firmed up only after these discussions are concluded.

[*Translation*]

Electrification of Villages in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

1278. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the

Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of work done regarding rural electrification in various districts of hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, till date;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the electrification of all the villages in these areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) In the eight districts of the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, 10189 villages of a total of 15117 (67.3%) have been electrified, as on the 28th February, 1990.

(b) and (c). The district-wise electrification programme is finalised at the State level based on the availability of funds and the interse priority fixed by the State Government. However, the remaining villages are likely to be electrified in the Eighth Plan period subject to availability of necessary funds and other inputs.

Railway Lines in Hilly Areas

1279. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a survey for construction of railway tracks in hilly areas of the country during the Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Surveys already approved for railway lines in hilly areas and likely to be progressed during the Eighth Plan are as under:—