

(b) the details of the towns/ places which are likely to be provided with this facility during the current financial year:

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) LPG facilities are at present available to consumers in five towns through regular distributors in Tripura, viz., Agartala, Udaipur, Kailasahar, Badharghat and Dharam Nagar;

(b) In addition to the above, two more towns, viz., Khowai and Shantir Bazar have been proposed by the oil industry for provision of LPG. As various steps precede the actual commissioning of LPG distributorships, it is not possible to indicate the exact time by which these will be commissioned.

[*Translation*]

LPG Agency for Bihar Shariff

832. SHRI VJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether another LPG agency has been allotted for Bihar Shariff, the headquarters of Nalanda district in Bihar;

(b) if so, when this agency has been allotted;

(c) whether the said agency has not actually be opened so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the second agency is also proposed to be opened in the congested area of Sohasram; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATU-

RAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) the Letter of Intent was issued to the selected candidate on January 21, 1988;

(c) Yes, Sir;

(d) The Explosives Licence for the storage godown is in the process of being obtained;

(e) No, Sir;

(f) Does not arise in view of (e) above.

[*English*]

Committee to Verify Polyester filament Yarn Capacity

833. SHRI NATVAR SINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has set up a Committee to verify and certify the existing Polyester Filament Yarn capacity;

(b) whether one of the members of the panel is from M/s Petrofils Cooperative Ltd. which is a rival producer of Polyester Filament Yarn for other producers;

(c) if so, whether the producers of Polyester Filament Yarn have voiced against this decision; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government to meet the grievances of producers of Polyester Filament Yarn?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry (ASFI) has expressed that the Polyester Filament Yarn units may find it

difficult to allow the competing units to visit their plants in view of certain secrecy clauses in their foreign collaboration agreements. The Technical Committee will take a view on this matter at the appropriate time.

Titagarh Paper Mills, West Bengal

834. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Titagarh Paper Mills in West Bengal is closed for sometime; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to revive the mill?

• THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M.ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). M/s. Titagarh Paper Mills has three units, two in West Bengal and the third in Orissa. The two units located in West Bengal are lying closed. The Titagarh Paper Mills is a sick industrial company in terms of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. As required under the provisions of the Act, the Mill had made a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in June, 1987. The BIFR has appointed the Industrial Development Bank of India as the operating agency for formulating a scheme for the revival of the mill.

Foreign Collaboration of Non-priority Items

835. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the policy regarding foreign collaboration for non-priority items; and

(b) whether export commitment

changes a non priority item into a priority item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M.ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Government has laid down the Foreign Collaboration guidelines which are based on national priorities. Import of technical know-how is permitted in sophisticated and high priority areas, in export oriented or import substitution manufacturing or for enabling indigenous industry to update existing technology in India to meet efficiently domestic requirement and/ or to become competitive in the export market.

[*Translation*]

Handing Over of Scooters India Ltd. to a Private Company

836. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for handing over the Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow to a private company; and

(b) the acreage of land with Scooters India Ltd., Lucknow and the price of the land, the value of machines installed there and the price at which it has been sold?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J.VENGAL RAO): (a) As Scooters India Ltd. has been incurring losses since inception, the Govt. have decided to transfer the agreed assets and equivalent liabilities of the Scooters India Limited's Lucknow unit for the manufacture of two-wheelers and three-wheelers to a leading two-wheeler manufacturer in the private sector, so that the capacity created and the skills developed in the unit are not wasted.