

(a) the number of LPG agencies at present in Kerala;

(b) the number of agencies forwarded to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(c) the number of agencies planned to be awarded in Kerala this year; and

(d) the number of such agencies earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT): (a) and (b). There are at present 137 LPG distributorships in the State of Kerala, out of which 31 belong to 'SC/ST' categories.

(c) and (d). In addition to the above, the oil industry has planned, upto its Annual Marketing Plan 1988-89, to establish 47 more distributorships in Kerala, out of which 11 have been earmarked for candidates under 'SC/ST' categories.

#### Promotional Avenues for Farm Radio Officers

4682. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-  
WARA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) when the Farm and House Radio Section was started in Akashvani programmes;

(b) the number of farm radio officers working in this section as on date;

(c) whether there are no promotional avenues for this cadre of employees working for more than 15 years; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN- FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): (a) Farm and Home Units in All India Radio were first established in 1966.

(b) Seventy-seven.

(c) and (d). Farm Radio Officers are presently eligible for promotion to one post of Joint Director (Farm & Home). However, a provision has been made in the proposed Indian Broadcasting (Programme) Service to amalgamate the cadre of Farm Radio Officers with that of Programme Executive to provide them better promotional avenues.

#### Selection grade for A.I.R. Farm Radio Officers

4683. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH:  
SHRI V. SOBHANADREES-  
WARA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the cadres of programme officers that are given benefits of selection grade;

(b) the reason for not extending the benefit of selection grade to the Farm Radio officers and Family Welfare Extension officers who are also the programme officers in practice; and

(c) the steps being taken to give selec- tion grade to all such Farm Radio officers and Family Welfare Extension officers who have completed 14 years service in their respective grades?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-