

As regards liquefied petroleum gas (cooking gas), the demand of the existing customers is sought to be met in full. During the last quarter of 1978, the normal average requirements of cooking gas in Orissa have been met by the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (Visakh Marketing Unit). In respect of the cooking gas supplies made by the Indian Oil Corporation, due to reduced availability of the product at Haldia on account of maintenance shutdown and transportation problems, there has been a backlog. At Cuttack, the backlog in Indane supplies is due to problems connected with distributorship and supplies are being arranged from Bhubaneswar.

(b) All possible action for improving the inventories of products at the feeding locations and for increasing despatches to depot locations is being taken. The Haldia refinery is expected to be back on stream after the maintenance shutdown, whereafter the supply position in Orissa State is expected to improve. The oil companies are also making *ad-hoc* arrangement for transportation of LPG cylinders from Visakhapatnam/Barauni refinery, to the extent possible, to reduce the hardships to the consumers.

Replacement of Obsolete Transport Planes in I.A.F.

24. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace the obsolete fleet of Dakotas, 4087 LS—8.

Fair Child Packets, Canberras and the Avros and going in for purchase of modern transport planes for the I.A.F.;

(b) if so, what are the new types of transport air-crafts that are going to be purchased; and

(c) whether other countries have been sounded for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Government propose to progressively replace the obsolete fleet of Dakotas and Packets of the Indian Air Force by suitable modern transport aircraft. Canberras are not transport aircraft; however, they are to be replaced by the Jaguars Avros (HS 748) are not yet obsolete and there is no proposal to replace them.

(b) and (c). Government are considering various possibilities, involving aircrafts made in different countries. No decisions on actual purchase have been taken yet.

Bonus Issue for Defence Employees

25. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a Committee to consider the Bonus issue for the Defence employees; and